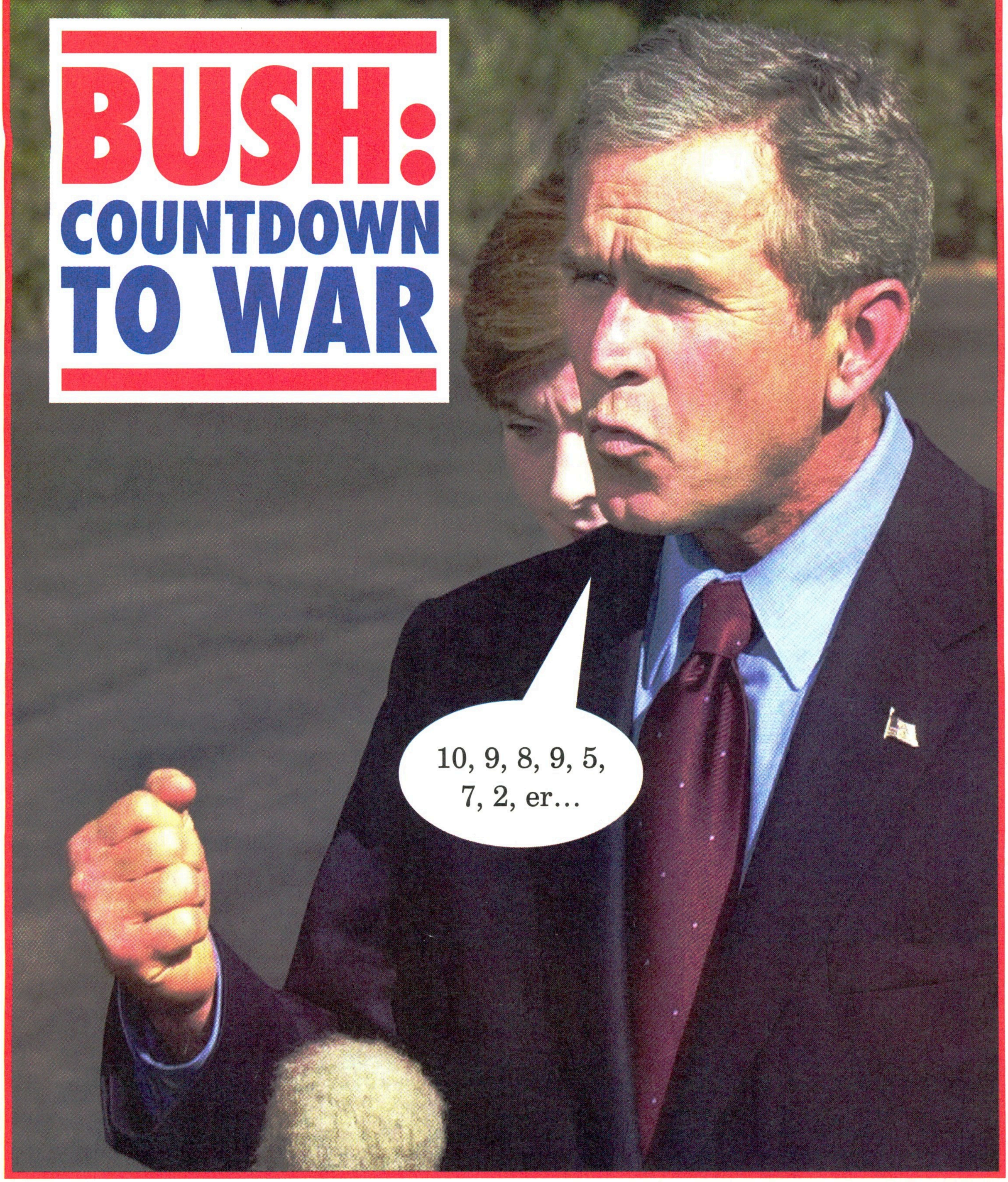
PRIVATE EYE

No. 1073
7 February –
20 Feb. 2003
£1.20

BUSH: COUNTDOWN TO WAR



Witan.

wisdom

What an Old Romantic the Mayor of London is!
If you need the extra cash to pay ye new-fangled (ha!)
London congestion charges, maybe you should invest with us.

Witan investment trust

0800 082 81 80 | www.witan.com quoting ref. CONGESTION

Henderson Global Investors
An AMP Company

Henderson Global Investors is the name under which Henderson Global Investors Limited, Henderson Investment Funds Limited, Henderson Fund Management plc and Henderson Administration Limited (all regulated by the FSA) provide investment products and services. We may record telephone calls for our mutual protection and to improve customer service. 4 Broadgate, London EC2M 2DA.

Advertisement

Scottish Gnomes

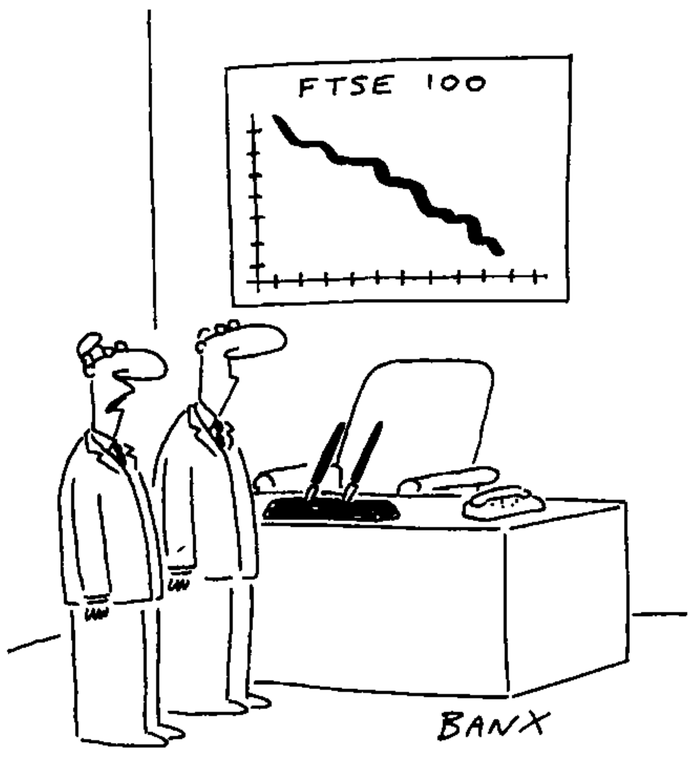
Pensions and Life Insurance

Your Money Is Our Business

THESE ARE difficult times for us all with the stock market plummeting and the international outlook uncertain. Surely this is the time to give us all your money. Why not invest in our new Scottish Gnomes 5 Year Superplan – guaranteed non-yield, no bonus, without profits? What could be better than that?*

Ring now for more details:
Scottish Gnomes Hotline
at The New Delhi Call Centre,
and ask to speak to our investment advisor Raj Chatterjee (or possibly his mother if he is busy).

**Normal conditions apply, ie you must be mad.*



"We need a war to avert the threat of war"

EDITORIAL
6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. Tel: 020 7437 4017.
Fax: 020 7437 0705. **Email:** strobes@private-eye.co.uk
http://www.private-eye.co.uk

PRIVATE EYE SUBSCRIPTIONS/SALES
PO Box 326, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8FA.
Subscription enquiries: 0870 750 1714
Fax: 01795 414 555. Overseas: 01795 414 871
Special Reports: 0870 750 1711 **Books:** 0870 750 1712
Email: subscriptions@private-eye.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
£19 per annum. Europe and Eire £27. Airmail (rest of world) £35. Cheques/POs to Private Eye. Mastercard/Visa.

ADVERTISING
020-7923 5402

Published by Pressdram Ltd, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. **Printed** by BGP Ltd, Bicester OX6 7QZ . **Distributed** by P.E. Distributions, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. 020 7437 4017.

ABC

Bush whacking...

- *Nice 'n' Belizey: The Ashcroft Saga* 5
- *Supermarket sweep: lobbying for Safeway* 6
- *Nicholson Baker's Dreary* 23
- *Chick-lit to mum-lit: Jane Green in Books* 24
- *Nazi business: hacks give history lessons* 25
- *Qinetiq's land grab – a MoD idea* 26
- *New Labour, new share disaster* 29

IN THE TEAROOM

"WHY poke the snake?" That's become the most frequently asked question in Downing Street these days.

First posed last autumn by a mid-level foreign office mandarin who was diffidently wondering whether now really might be, er, quite the wisest time to be going to war with Iraq, it's come to preface every item on the agenda of No 10's morning strategy sessions.

Why, just when everyone had forgotten there even was a firefighters' strike, send John Prescott into the Commons to bluster for Britain, threatening trades unionists with a spell in pokey? Why dredge up all those buried memories of a grim-faced Grocer, the industrial relations court, the Shrewsbury two, the official solicitor (remember him?) and all the rest of that seventies retro stuff?

Why, just because Chirac and Schroeder come on like two old drag queens doing a pas-de-deux along the mirrored hall at Versailles, turn all provocative, sneaking round the back to stitch up a rival anglo-garlic belt alliance with the spiv Berlusconi and Senor "Nice-but-Dim" Aznar? Okay, so France may be behaving like a rogue state, hawking its security council vote around in exchange for oil concessions while simultaneously occupying the rhetorical moral high ground; inviting the bastard Mugabe to feed his face with camembert while his people starve. Sure it's irritating, but this is the viperous Chirac you're going after, Tony. The guy's got form. Well not "form" exactly... but after all those mayoral scandals it's a fair bet that if he weren't in the Elysée, he'd probably be in jail. So why poke the snake?

And why, oh why, oh why choose this moment to start leaking stories to the press about Gordon wanting to cash in his Granita guarantee? Leave the sullen beast alone. He's taken just about all the humiliation a Scot can stand. If he explodes, you'll have to sack him. Your ISA may only be worth 48 percent of what you bought it for, but what'll it be worth when Patricia Hewitt becomes chancellor?

No one ever seems to have a good answer to the "why poke the snake?" question. Except that it feels good. It's the adrenaline rush. They haven't had so much political fun since 1997. This is a government that's so bored with its pisspoor opposition it'll recklessly take on all comers. If things go well they might succeed in clearing out a whole nest of snakes: Saddam, Mugabe, Chirac, even Andy Gilchrist. But it won't be so easy to scotch the kraken next door.

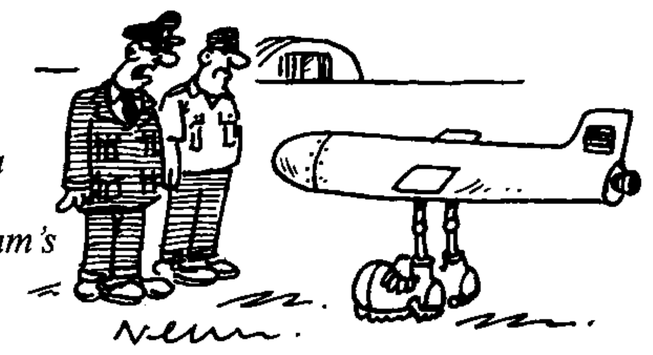
'Urquhart'

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

"MARS by 2010!" was the gist of headlines greeting the news that president George Bush was, in his state of the union speech, to give the go-ahead for a multi-billion-dollar programme to put a man on the Red Planet by the end of this decade.

Well, that all now looks rather unlikely. After the awful loss of *Columbia*, we can expect to see the entire American manned space programme put in limbo. Indeed, the three astronauts currently aboard the International Space Station (ISS) may well be the last people in space for years.

People are now starting to question the whole raison d'etre of the shuttle. It exists purely to service the costly ISS, which in turn exists to give the shuttle somewhere to go. In this climate,



"This one's gonna kick Saddam's ass"

putting a man on Mars looks as likely as a cow jumping over the moon.

So how did the Mars story start? The *LA Times* had been granted an interview with Nasa chief Sean O'Keefe, at which he had been told – he told us – that the US government, in a bid to stimulate interest and investment in science and engineering, would revive a decades-old plan to get to Mars using a high-powered nuclear rocket. The story was duly followed up here by the *Guardian* and the *Mirror*.

That such a rocket could work is not doubted. But getting it to work in less than seven years would be totally impossible. What O'Keefe was in fact talking about was a far less ambitious plan to boost Nasa's nuclear propulsion studies, with the aim of launching a series of atomic-powered deep-space *unmanned* probes to places like Jupiter and Pluto. Building that vastly more massive nuclear rockets needed to get people to Mars "in a couple of months", as the articles stated, would be a fantastically-ambitious exercise – dwarfing even the Apollo moonshots.

Bush made no mention of the plan in his state of the union speech last week. Then came the shuttle disaster. Men-on-Mars will be forgotten for a long time yet.

'Boffin'

WITH investors getting screwed everywhere, a special prize for honesty is surely due to John Koonmen, a former trader at Lehman, for launching the "Eifuku" fund.

True to its name, this speculative fund blew its backers' $300m in just seven trading days last month. Koonmen took on massive risks by borrowing extra funds from three investment banks, and then wagered the money on three high-risk bets.

When these went awry the banks demanded their money back. "Substantial trading losses have consumed nearly all the fund's capital," he wrote to his investors on January 15. *Eifuku!* Well, they can't say they weren't warned.

BROWN BIDS FOR TOP JOB

NEWS

MORE news from Worcestershire on the appalling shambles following the effective closure of Kidderminster hospital.

Eye readers will recall the long controversy over the private finance initiative (PFI) scheme for the Worcester hospital, that led to the catastrophic run-down at Kidderminster, the formation of a new political party, Health Concern, the toppling of the ambitious Labour MP for the area David Lock, and the election by a huge majority of the independent candidate, retired consultant Richard Taylor.

The dispute about the hospital and PFI was fired by a report published in 2000 by Professor Allyson Pollock and her public policy team at University College, London. The report, entitled *Deficits Before Patients*, predicted that the PFI scheme would lead to a deficit for the local health trust of £5.6m. Prof Pollock was roundly denounced for her report.

Now, however, the Worcester PFI hospital has been investigated in detail by the district auditor who concludes that the likely deficit for the hospital trust this year is, er, £6m – even more than predicted by Prof Pollock.

The auditor goes on to show how the trust only managed to meet its targets for 2001-2002 by relying on £5.7m special assistance. It also shows how the trust has become one of the most inefficient in the country because clinical resources were cut to pay for the PFI scheme, and as a result consultants could not undertake their full workloads. According to the auditor, the trust has "the highest medical staffing to workload levels for all large acute trusts in England".

Dr Taylor told the *Eye* that Health Concern still flourishes in his area, is putting up candidates for the local elections in May and is sponsoring a nation-wide "democracy conference" on 18 February that will welcome all protestors and campaigners against hospital closures and NHS PFI projects.

TWO snippets of news on the fantastic deal by which BAE Systems provides impoverished Tanzania (whose 33 million people earn an average $220 a year) with an air defence system for £29m financed by Barclays Bank.

The first is the blunt refusal of the British government to publish the report, by the World Bank's International Air Control Organisation (ICAO), into the project. The *Eye* understands that the report denounces the project for the wasteful nonsense it is.

The department for international development has a copy of the report, but refuses to publish it or put it in the Commons library, even though international development secretary Clare Short was among the most vociferous critics of the contract when it was first exposed.

The second piece of news is the revelation that the European Union is funding an entirely separate new radar and air traffic control system for Tanzania, with the help of a soft loan from the European Investment Bank. The automatic system, costing $14.5m, is expected to be fully operational this month. It makes any argument for the BAE Systems white elephant completely redundant.

These two developments heighten suspicions that the original BAE Systems deal with Tanzania was stuffed full of sweeteners for the politicians and military chiefs who sanctioned it. In a Commons debate last June, Norman Lamb, Liberal Democrat MP for Norfolk North, said: "The more sinister explanation is that the contract price was fiddled – artificially inflated so that it looked to the outside world as if Barclays were providing a concessional loan."

The answer came from the government's junior trade minister, Alan Johnson, who claimed there was no evidence of fraud or bungs. There has been no investigation either.

Street Of Shame

THE stock market's halved, pensions are in crisis, ISAs are worthless and endowments have had it. But the personal finance press parties on.

Witan Investment Trust (value down 42 percent over three years and part of the troubled AMP insurance group, which has abolished bonuses for many policyowners) is taking four hacks on a four-day, all-expenses-paid skiing trip later this month.

But multi-millionaire John Duffield's New Star unit trust company is the real big spender. He's paying for nearly a dozen of Fleet Street's finest to take Club Class flight BA 9922 to Marrakesh on Saturday 8 February for a two-day jaunt. Even discount fares start at £500.

Guests include David Budworth from the *Sunday Times*, Liz Dolan, finance editor at the *Sunday Telegraph*, Richard Miles of the *Times*, Justin Harper of the *Daily Mail* and Melanie Wright from the *Sunday Mirror*.

It'll be tough for them, staying at the Mamouria hotel, which rates itself "one of the finest hotels in the world" and where even a basic room costs £250 a night (breakfast not included). They will also have to make major time-investment decisions between lazing by the pool or shopping at the local souk.

It won't all be easy though. They will also have to cook their own lunch at a local Arab cookery class and drive their own quad bikes cross country – no chauffeurs here. But they will get (sort of) close to the Moroccan investment scene. Flight BA 6919 stops 40 minutes in Casablanca, home to Morocco's stock market, on the way back.

REBEKAH Wade has carried her crusade against Britain's paedophiles, suspected paedophiles or anyone who looks or sounds a bit like a paedophile over to the *Sun* from the *News of the World*, with sensational exclusives on vile sex beasts, sickos and pervs from all walks of life.

Meanwhile on the Bizarre page, columnist Dominic Mohan has been getting hot and bothered about "Lesbian pop duo Tatu", who "wear scanty school uniforms, boast of being gay and kiss in the rain in their video". "I know it's another picture of the lesbos but I didn't think you'd mind!" he guffawed on 23 January, over the seventh such shot he has printed in the last month.

Several of the pictures featured in Bizarre were taken from Tatu's video, filmed when the girls were 15 and 16.

AS THE *Express* rags continue their noble crusade against paedophile porn, Richard Desmond may be hoping that no one recalls a show which used to be screened on his satellite channel Television X.

The programme featured the under-championed sport of "cat-fighting", in which two women grapple strenuously until they've ripped off all each other's clothes. One particularly alluring bout from South-East Asia was broadcast twice before someone noticed that the two combatants were, er, decidedly under-aged. Perhaps Inspector Knacker might care to investigate?

CEEFUX

Flooding means Falmouth Town Station has been closed. Please use Falmouth Docks instead.

— BBC travel information on Ceefax, 5 January

GOSSIP columnist Tim Walker clearly learnt a lot from his old boss Nigel Dempster. Not about journalism, of course, but driving.

Walker, who now edits the *Sunday Telegraph*'s Mandrake page, was up before the beak at Basingstoke magistrates recently for driving at 104mph and offered up a bewildering number of excuses in mitigation – including not being used to driving on motorways, the way his VW Golf was inclined to speed up noiselessly so he was not aware of it, and his belief that a man in a BMW was chasing him "with a view to a possible road rage incident".

The magistrates were unimpressed, fining Walker £400 plus £35 costs, and banned him from driving for 21 days.

Meanwhile, what of Dumpster, who once escaped a drink-driving conviction by blaming his condition on pears in red wine sauce? His most recent drink-driving charge followed an incident in February 2001, when he smashed his car into several bollards and a lamp-post before overturning it. Two years later, the case has still to be heard, though no one seems able to explain why not.

Number crunching

£140m

■ minimum profit the Tube Lines consortium expects to make from part-privatisation of London underground by 2009

£140m

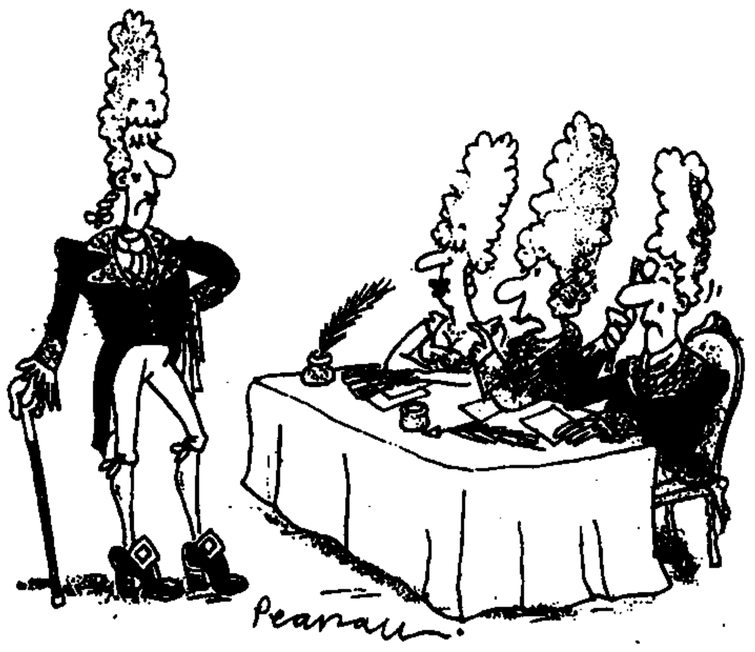
■ amount the Tube Lines consortium is demanding as compensation for cost of bidding for London Underground contract

"WORLD CLASS FOR 140 YEARS" was the boast of London Underground's staff magazine, *On The Move*, in its January issue which celebrated the anniversary of "a delighted London public" taking their first trip on the tube in 1863.

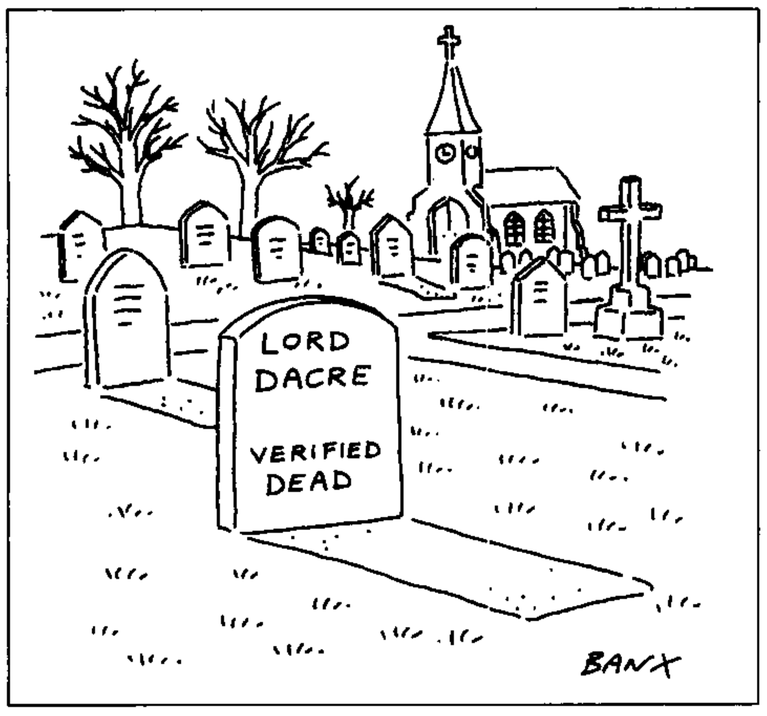
Unfortunately, it was delivered to staff on the day the two-week closure of the Central and Waterloo and City lines was announced following the Chancery Lane derailment. By the end of the week snow had also closed sections of the Jubilee, Bakerloo and Piccadilly lines, while the Northern, Circle, District and Metropolitan lines were suffering "severe service disruption".

Perhaps staff could have pacified passengers by handing them copies of On *The Move*'s "What a difference 140 years makes!" article to read.

FOP IDOL



"Nice hanky work, but you'll have to work on the walk and lose that chin..."



SO farewell then, Lord Dacre, aka Hugh Very-Ropey. As a former director of Times Newspapers he might have expected a rather more generous send-off from the *Times*, which reported his death under the headline "Hitler Diary Hoax Victim Lord Dacre Dies at 89", and then rubbed it in with two further headlines inside ("Hoaxed by the Hitler Diaries"; "Fell Foul of the 'Hitler Diaries' Hoax"). Yes, the paper admitted, "he had second thoughts, but not before the *Sunday Times*'s presses began to roll".

Curiously, the *Times* omits to mention where Dacre originally announced his belief that the diaries were genuine. It was in an article published by, er, the *Times*, one Saturday in April 1983. He had his "second thoughts" that very morning, and rang *Times* editor Charlie Douglas-Home to warn him. The presses at the *Sunday Times*, which was due to run exclusive extracts from the diaries, had not even begun to roll. Later that day Dacre told *Sunday Times* editor Frank Giles directly of his doubts. There was still time to remake the front page.

Why, then, does the *Times* now pretend that it was entirely Dacre's fault for not alerting them to the hoax before the paper went to press? Perhaps because it can then avoid naming the real culprit. Rupert Murdoch (for it is he) was informed of Trevor-Roper's recantation on the Saturday, but uttered the immortal command: "Fuck Dacre. Publish!"

ON 18 December last year Oxfam issued a press release about plans by Nestlé to fine famine-hit Ethiopia £3.7m over the seizure of assets in the 1970s.

It was a great story; and the following day the *Guardian* ran with it, naming Oxfam as its source. But now the *Grauniad* has become less generous towards the charity's researchers, claiming credit for the story itself. "After the Guardian first exposed the company's plans, over 40,000 people wrote to Nestlé," the paper revealed on 24 January, adding that Nestlé initially "dismissed the *Guardian*'s story".

On 30 January, "after being deluged by 40,000 letters inspired by the *Guardian*'s revelation", Nestlé backed down.

Alas there was no time to mention Oxfam's part in all of this. Nor to mention the fact that evil Nestlé was in fact a co-sponsor of the *Guardian*'s Hay-on-Wye festival last year at which Germaine Greer and Jim Crace embarrassed Rubbisher enormously with their vocal protest about Nestlé's grubby baby milk business.

THE NEOPHILIACS

An occasional series about the ceaseless quest for the new new.

"Deborah Orr: Why vibrators are the new Tupperware."
— *Independent* front page headline.

"Is green ink the new red ink?"
— Bill Turnbull, *BBC Breakfast*.

"East is the new West."
— *Good Morning*, ITV.

"Debt repayment is the new black."
— Michael Hartnett, European equity strategist at Merrill Lynch, *Financial Times*.

"Staying in has become the new going out."
— Vincent Scheurer, *Financial Times*.

"I'm sure that old is the new young."
— Ian Hislop, *Independent on Sunday*. *(I was er... misquoted. Ed.)*

COURT CIRCULAR

BRENDA, nursing her sore knee at Sandringham, has been passing the time reading a craftily-acquired first draft of Sir Michael Peat's report into "Fawcettgate" – the bizarre goings-on in Prince Charles's household at St James's Palace.

The scale on which many of Charles's 85 staff have supplemented their incomes by selling off royal property and gossip has come as a genuine surprise to the Queen. The fact that Charles, in contrast, knew about most of it and actively encouraged some of it has not amused her one bit.

She has asked the lord chamberlain's committee to consider whether a similar exercise should take place at Buckingham Palace, and has ordered Vice Admiral Tom Blackburn, Master of the Household, to make a full check on the palace basements, where thousands of unwanted official gifts are stored. Some of these belong to the nation, and Brenda has been seized with anxiety that some of this property may have gone walkabout.

'Flunkey'

AMAZING FUGGING STORY

A WORD of warning to anyone thinking of shopping at Harrods: don't buy any photographic equipment, lest you meet the same fate as *Eye* reader Derek Horn.

Mr Horn and his wife came to London for a few days to celebrate their wedding anniversary. As well as seeing the sights, going to *The Mousetrap* and so on, they paid a visit to Harrods, where Mr Horn (a professional photographer) spent almost £3,000 on a new ultra-wide Nikon lens and camera-body.

"As we were leaving the photographic department," he reports, "Mohamed Fayed (immaculately dressed) came marching briskly through the store accompanied by 11 henchmen, five pairs of two with one single bringing up the rear. He pointed at me as he swept past and the first pair of 'minders' peeled off from the line and lifted me bodily – quickly but very gently – into a small room nearby, where I was told politely that the president of the company did not like to see cameras uncovered in his store. I was then escorted from the store and left outside! This was all done so quickly and efficiently, my feet did not touch the ground until I was outside. My wife, meanwhile, who had also bought goods in the store, was left alone and totally baffled as to my sudden disappearance, and it was some time before we met up outside Harrods."

As Derek Horn notes, "we found this a very unusual shopping experience". But then, as Mohamed Fayed never tires of boasting, Harrods is indeed a fugging unusual shop.

ASHCROFT V. THE TIMES

THE jailing last month of a former US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) analyst in Atlanta, Georgia, has brought consternation to the offices of senior management at News International in London.

As first revealed by the *Eye*, Jonathan Randel was arrested and charged after being paid thousands of dollars by Times Newspapers to run checks through the US government computer on former Tory treasurer Lord Ashcroft. The *Times* used the files which Randel produced to imply that Ashcroft was suspected of drug-dealing and money-laundering, suggestions which it later had to admit were untrue.

Alastair "Blubber" Brett, Times Newspapers' lachrymose legal manager, was put in charge of Randel's engagement. He carelessly allowed one payment of $4,905 to be made directly from News International plc's account to Randel's account at the Wachovia Bank in Atlanta. There were other payments, too, plus an all-expenses-paid trip to London with accommodation at the smart Number One Aldwych hotel.

Brett was also the recipient of much of Randel's output, and here too there was much carelessness. The court in Atlanta heard that six DEA files were attached to an email Randel sent direct from his office to janwhite@newsint.co.uk. (Jan White was Brett's secretary at the time.)

Within the walls of Wapping, Brett maintained for some time that Randel had not been paid by the *Times*. But he was forced to change his story when a colleague, Alison Clarke, checked the payment records at News International's Peterborough office and revealed the truth.

On the day Randel was sentenced to a year in jail, Brett's boss Tom Crone was telephoned by the US department of justice, who demanded access to files and (more significantly) to people, under the US/UK mutual assistance treaty. Those whom they wish to interview include not only Blubber Brett but also the newly knighted Sir Peter Stothard, former editor of the *Times*. With a successful conviction under its belt the DEA is keen to press on. Incredible though it may seem, Stothard could find himself charged with bribing a US official, a very serious offence indeed.

It is to be hoped that this dreadful prospect doesn't take the edge off his investiture at the palace.

MEANWHILE, Lord Ashcroft has a few embarrassments of his own. Diplomatic cables now released by the US government under the freedom of information act claim that he runs the most reviled company in Belize and is widely accused of ripping off the poor.

The billionaire Tory is the chairman and majority shareholder in Belize Telecommunications Ltd (BTL), which has a monopoly on the telephone market in Belize, and has fought off attempts by the government to force him to reduce the costs of calls for local people. Angry Belizeans have held demonstrations to protest at the huge profits his company is raking in from its exclusive contract.

Ashcroft denies the allegations, saying that his telephone rates are among the lowest in the region. He also says that taxes levied on BTL amount to almost 10 per cent of the Belize government's revenues.

The Belize government recently changed the law to end BTL's monopoly status, but the US cables warn of potential trouble ahead. An unnamed BTL executive told the US chargé d'affaires that "unless the Belize government agrees to a phased-in competition scheme where the playing field is level for all competitors... the process of ending the monopoly will be 'very ugly'."

Ashcroft's company also had an ugly dispute with the British high commission in Belize two years ago, when BTL threatened to cut off the phones of desperate diplomats who were trying to use an alternative method of making cheaper international calls.

HERE are some of Tony Blair's least favourite colleagues, past and present: Bob Parry, Bill Michie, Tam Dalyell, Dennis Skinner, Ann Clwyd, Dave Nellist, Martin Flannery, Ron Davies, Ian Mikardo, Joan Maynard, Bob Wareing, Eddie Loyden, Ron Brown and Bob Litherland.

Some have died, others retired or been purged. But a handful remain in parliament. What all have in common is that they put their names to a strongly-worded early-day motion in February 1987 calling on the then Tory government to halt arms exports to, er, Iraq.

Some of those who signed the EDM were opposition whips. Suffice to say, not a single member of the current cabinet now fulminating over Iraq's weapons of mass destruction could bring themselves to condemn arms sales to Iraq by signing the EDM when it might have made a difference.

THE Dear Leader has done it again: this time over House of Lords reform. He's succeeded in shocking some of his most ardent and loyal supporters in "new" Labour by taking the side of his old tutor and mentor, Lord Derry Irvine, and saying the second chamber should be appointed, not elected.

Since this scuppers leader of the house Robin Cook's carefully-drafted reforms to create a partially-elected second chamber, Cookie is hopping mad. So hopping mad that he would prefer to walk rather than be fired again, as he was from the foreign office.

With his vanity pricked, Cook is beginning to rediscover some of his old-style Labour radicalism, and in recent weeks has begun to talk to old friends in the unions and the party who haven't heard from him in years.

Could Cook be the catalyst who starts the palace revolution?

The brooding figure of chancellor Gordon Brown will certainly be watching carefully. Brown grows visibly more impatient with the man who threatens to undo so much of his hard economic groundwork by going to war and sending the markets into spasm. But, never one to forget an ancient feud, the chancellor will be determined to ensure that should the Dear Leader ever fall under the proverbial bus, the beneficiary of such a "tragedy" most certainly won't be his own bitter enemy, Robin Cook.

LABOUR is determined that at least half those seats where MPs have already indicated they will stand down will go to wimmin candidates. Party HQ is even more determined that the vast majority of seats that will be vacated before the next election will also be given to wimmin – although preferably of the Blairite variety.

Given that not even party officials know much about most of the wimmin on the candidates' list, even the more on-message have begun muttering about "all-Blair shortlists".

Amazingly, however, a small clutch of solid Labour seats has been declared open to both genders. Into this category falls Normanton, the former mining seat in Yorkshire, coveted by the chancellor's right hand man, Ed Balls. Balls' wife, Yvette "Boy!" Cooper, holds the adjoining seat of Pontefract. The Labour *Wunder*-couple could save a lot on baby-sitting bills if Ed's rather fine parachute lands in Normanton.

WHILE special measures are all the rage in Normanton for the likes of Ed Balls, another former golden-boy, Shahid Malik, has been well and truly stitched up by the party hierarchy in Burnley, where sitting MP Peter Pike is standing down at the next election.

Malik has been sniffing around the former textile town for some years now (his father and family are active in the Danesbury ward of the city, where there have been allegations of membership stacking). But Malik's hopes of taking the Burnley nomination on a plate were scuppered when local comrades decided to offer the constituency up for an all wimmin shortlist.

A furious Malik and mates convened a meeting of members which asked Labour's national executive committee to think again. It didn't; and Malik has gone to ground. The normally faithfully on-message and ingratiating Malik is being punished for daring to break the habit of a lifetime and speak out – as he did against home secretary David Blunkett and his draconian attitude to asylum seekers.

"I agree with you about the need for régime change"

ENVIRONMENT minister Michael Meacher's announcement that he plans to make the senders of junk mail pay local authorities for recycling the vast mountains of waste paper they generate is unlikely to have won him friends among budget-watching civil servants.

One of the biggest senders of direct marketing material (aka junk mail) is the government, which last year spent £24.8m on mailshots to the public. Mind you, the Labour party is unlikely to be happy either. It recently expanded its direct marketing office in a bid to halt falling membership numbers.

THE *Eye*'s old friend Andrew Rosindell, the extremely right-wing Tory MP for Romford, wraps himself in the Union Flag on every occasion – he had a letter in the *Romford Recorder* two weeks ago urging everyone to fly it on their flagpoles all the year round – and his Christmas card to constituents duly featured no fewer than three pictures of a proudly fluttering Union Jack. It also had a charming little photo of Andrew's deceased pit-bull terrier, Spike, who used to wear a red-white-and-blue doggy jacket.

Unfortunately for Rosindell, however, the main photo on the front of his card was of the Queen. It seems this has now come to the attention of royal flunkeys, and the MP will soon receive a severe official reprimand from Buckingham Palace for using Her Majesty's image in a political setting. Could there be any more humiliating fate for such a patriotic Tory?

AFTER 47 years in the RMT union, deputy prime minister John Prescott resigned last year in protest when the union cut its funding to the Labour party. But he continued to benefit from his association with the RMT in the shape of a two-bedroom flat in Clapham, for which he has paid the union a peppercorn rent since 1970.

Now the union has decided to knock down the building in order to make way for, er, affordable housing for essential workers.

In 2000 Prescott got into hot water with the parliamentary commissioner for standards after failing to declare his interest in the flat. Last year he tried to buy it, but the RMT turned down his offer of £220,000. Prescott led the sniggering when Peter Mandelson got his come-uppance over his ill-judged purchase of a house in Notting Hill. Now it looks like Mandy's turn to wipe a crocodile tear from his eye...

SUPERMARKET SWEEP

SUPERMARKETS, the competition commission says, are already a "complex monopoly". Given that the proposed sale of Safeway will *decrease* competition, those hoping to snap up the supermarket giant will have to win over the regulators as much as the shareholders.

All the main contenders are thus testing their political influence. Morrison's bid already has the support of some northern MPs and the shop union USDAW on the grounds that it will cause fewer store closures and leave more competition. However, the firm's boss Sir Ken Morrison is famously thrifty (his staff are paid less than Safeway's) and the price of the bidding is more likely to come out of shelf stackers' wages than Sir Ken's own pockets (which were swelled hugely last week by the announcement of a £133,000 pay rise). Morrison's has hired lobbyists Citigate, a Labour party donor, to help its bid.

Sainsbury's has some of the strongest political influence. Lord Sainsbury is a government minister; and at the end of last year the competition commission appointed a new chief business adviser: one David Roberts, outgoing director of strategic management at... Sainsbury's. Sainsbury's PR firm, Finsbury, is another Labour donor, run by Peter Mandelson's mate Roland Rudd.

Multi-millionaire Philip Green, the so-called retail entrepreneur, has plenty of political clout too. He hired Lord Grabiner, an expensive QC ennobled by Tony Blair to chair his firm, Arcadia Group. Grabiner is now running Green's bid alongside another Labour party member, Allan Leighton, who in his spare time runs the post office and has eight other directorships.

American giant Wal-Mart's bid has attracted the most criticism. Unions, campaigners and left-ish MPs view the firm as an anti-union, low-paying foreign corporate beast. Perhaps that's what persuaded Tony Blair to host a reception for Wal-Mart executives last year.

The Walton family behind Wal-Mart give hundreds of thousand of dollars to George Bush's republicans. In Britain the firm has hired lobbyist Bell Pottinger to help its bid. In turn Bell Pottinger has plenty of Labour-friendly staff, like former Jack Cunningham adviser Tim Walker and Labour prospective parliamentary candidate Howard Dawber.

Tesco is a late bidder who knows how to buy influence, having sponsored the national reception at Labour's last party conference. Its boss Sir Terry Leahy sits on four government task forces. Though it hardly needs the help, Tesco has two lobbyists: Connect Public Affairs (with former Margaret Beckett adviser Steve Barwick and Emily Wallace, a former assistant to David Blunkett and Stephen Byers on staff) and Burston-Marstellar, which can only field Stuart Bugg, a former assistant to obscure backbench new boy Ben Chapman MP.

'Backbiter'

NOTHING SUCCEEDS LIKE FAILURE

THE NHS appointments commission is settling down contentedly after nearly a year in expensive new offices in London's Cheapside, where 40 staff are sifting through likely nominations for NHS chairs and non-executive directors.

The commission's chairman is Sir William Wells – he of the great Ashford property speculation scandal that lost the Church of England some £80m (see *Eyes* 872 and 932).

Top advisers to the church on the "investment" were blue-blooded estate agents Chestertons, whose senior partner at the time was William Wells. In a report in 1988 Wells warmly recommended the project on almost every criterion. He said the scheme (to build a small town near Ashford in Kent) was "excellently based" and an "exciting opportunity". No wonder the commissioners decided to go ahead and Chestertons were appointed consultants. The firm pocketed £1.5m in fees before planning permission was refused and the entire plan disintegrated in appalling losses for the church.

As the extent of the scandal became clear, in 1997 Wells, who in his spare time was a director of a number of companies and chair of the South Thames regional health authority, was knighted. Sir William quickly became a "new" Labour business favourite and in 2001 was made chairman of the NHS appointments commission.

STEPHEN CARTER was his usual modest self when asked by the *Financial Times* about his £350,000 a year salary as head of the powerful new media and communications regulator, Ofcom.

The money was rather less than he could earn in the private sector, he conceded; but money wasn't everything. And anyway, he went on, "if you want to attract first division talent, and I believe we do and can, you have to offer acceptable market rates".

So how did Carter qualify for the first division? Perhaps it was as managing director of cable company NTL, where he was a senior member of the team that brought about one of the most spectacular bankruptcies of all time, with losses of $20bn. The main victims were shareholders, but Mr Carter picked up the usual hefty bonus shortly before the crucial restructuring.

His handling of the crisis drew praise from other NTL directors. The *FT* quoted one of them, Martin Cass, as saying: "He is quick, decisive and brilliant at taking a complex problem and distilling it into a very simple plan."

IF Royal Mail chairman and former ASDA chief executive Allen Leighton is any way distracted from post office business by the frantic bidding for Safeways in which he is keenly engaged, he can take comfort in the appointment of a new executive deputy chairman at the Royal Mail.

Elmar Toime will be coming from New Zealand, where he is chief executive of New Zealand Post. He leaves after an unpleasant report from the New Zealand auditor-general into some rather extravagant spending by senior staff at Transend Worldwide, a New Zealand post subsidiary of which Mr Toime was a director.

The report revealed that there was virtually no control over where staff stayed and how much they charged to expenses. National MP Murray McCully said Mr Toime and the minister responsible for public industries should resign. But there is no need for that now. Even before he can face further hearings of the NZ parliament's privileges committee, Mr Toime is off to London for his new job.

"Whose stupid idea was this?"

HIGH PRINCIPALS

CASES of fraud and financial impropriety are on the up in higher education, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (Hefce) reveals in a circular letter to principals and vice-chancellors.

Hefce dealt with 59 cases of fraud involving higher education funding cash last year, including 19 institutions themselves revealing a fraud or attempted fraud within the organisation. The remaining 40 cases involved whistleblowers alleging financial irregularities. Most cases related to "unsophisticated financial impropriety" such as crude cheque frauds. The highest value fraud reported to Hefce was £43,000.

Hefce chief auditor Paul Greaves said the 59 cases don't reveal a pattern of systematic wrongdoing but underline the inadequacy of arrangements in higher education (HE) raising concerns about impropriety. Hefce is not supposed to act as an ombudsman for the sector, but introduced its whistleblowing service in response to the number of allegations it was receiving.

Six of the allegations last year related to just one institution, but Greaves refused to reveal which one, noting that it may be because the institution was more diligent in reporting.

STUDENSE

THE government's innovative approach to higher education funding – to encourage poor students in to universities by making them pay more – has met with vocal opposition from its own usually docile backbenchers.

But what about that hotbed of student unrest, the NUS, which under such firebrand leaders as, er, education secretary Charles Clarke (NUS president 1975-77), was known for its radical opposition to just about anything?

The union has been strangely muted in its disapproval of the scheme, hedging its "deep concern" about debt burden with a keen welcome back to the maintenance grant and the shifting of up-front tuition fees.

Part of the reason for this is a proposal in the white paper which has received little publicity: that the NUS itself should take over responsibility for reviewing university teaching standards, publishing a "user friendly" guide to the best courses and least-dull lecturers in town. Naturally, Clarke plans to "target pay resources to those universities which reward high quality teaching", which gives the union an unprecedented level of power in the funding and decision-making process.

On the day the white paper was presented to the Commons, Clarke was guest of honour at a reception hosted by the NUS at the House of Commons, at which, according to president Mandy Telford, he "gave full endorsement of all our work". Clarke also "said he wants to forge a real partnership with the student movement" and "wants to work with us to discuss the broad future of UK universities". So that's all right, then.

PS: On the day the white paper was published, proposing debts of up to £30,000 for all graduates, the NUS emailed every student on its mailing list.

"WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? CAN YOU COMPLETE THE KEBABTHON?" it screamed, over a link to an official NUS online game which allowed members to "help guide student Danny Timpson home after a night out on the shandies… without dropping his kebab."

Who says student activism is dead?

BRUSSELS SPROUTS

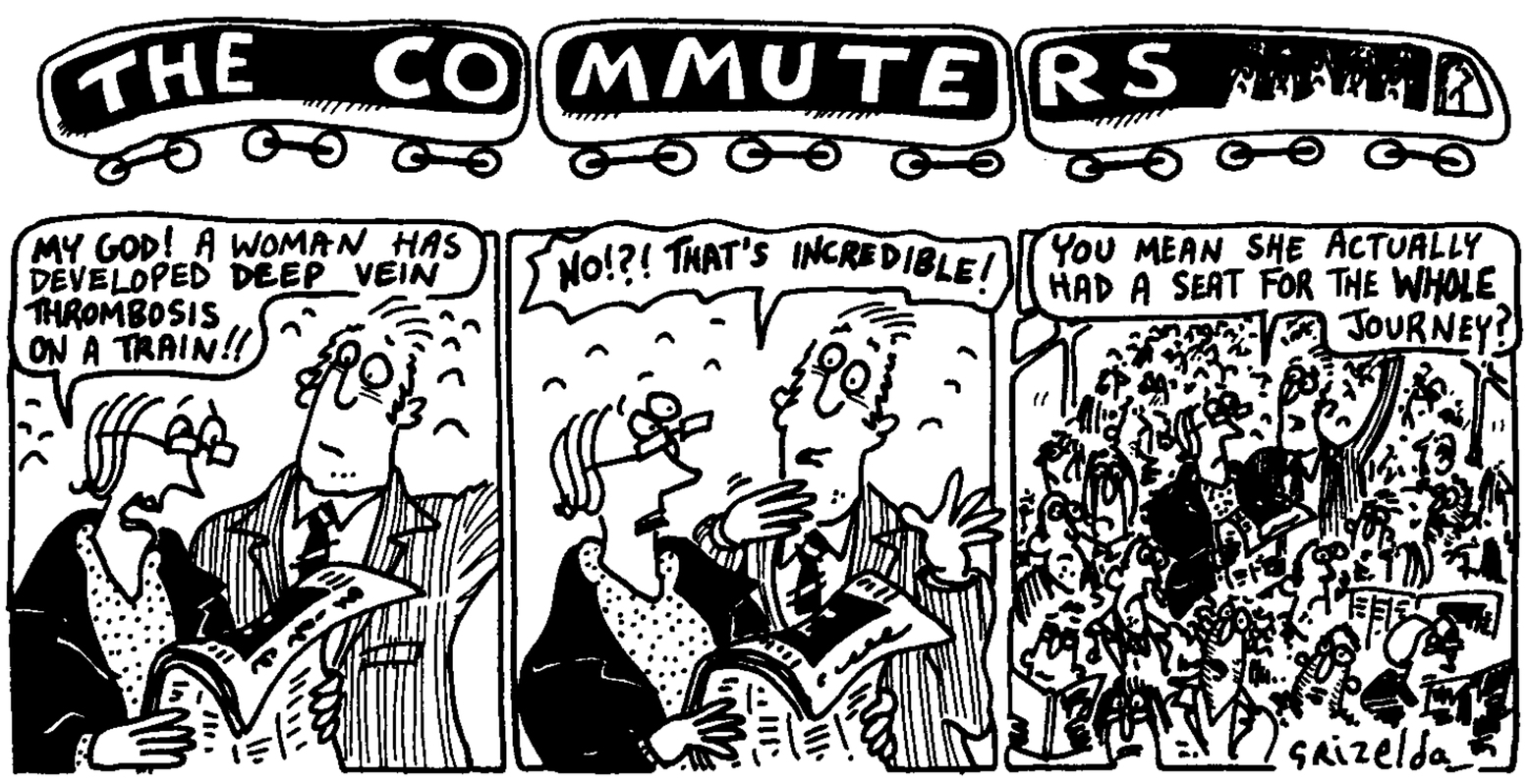
THE speed and alacrity with which the European Commission investigates its own officials can be gauged by the case of Edith Cresson, former prime minister of France and erstwhile European commissioner.

Readers with long memories will recall that she's been under investigation continuously since the fall of the regime of Jacques Santer in 1999. Questions were asked about the way she dealt with financial irregularities while in office and her decision to hire her local dentist as a consultant Aids expert when he was no such thing.

The investigation, which also involves other "members of staff", would have remained secret but for a leak. Now it emerges that Cresson is finally about to receive a set of allegations which she must respond to within two months. She currently receives an EU pension believed to be close to £100,000 a year – something she might forfeit depending on the outcome of the inquiry.

While some French journalists expressed outrage at a press briefing in Brussels over the commission's "vendetta against Cresson and France", Cresson may not be the only Brussels retiree with cause to bite his or her nails. The rule that retirement brings immunity might be about to be jettisoned in the wake of the Quatraro tobacco scandal case.

This concerns Dr Antonio Quatraro, a commission official who was under investigation when he fell (or jumped or was pushed) to his death from a fourth-floor window of a European Commission office at rue de la Loi in central Brussels. At OLAF, the EU anti-fraud unit, files concerning this "very complex case" are now to be dusted off. This follows a tip-off from the EU court of auditors. Can officials be chased even after they have retired? "Yes, they can," said a man from OLAF.


THE COMMUTERS
MY GOD! A WOMAN HAS DEVELOPED DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS ON A TRAIN!!
NO!?! THAT'S INCREDIBLE!
YOU MEAN SHE ACTUALLY HAD A SEAT FOR THE WHOLE JOURNEY?
GRIZELDA

FIVE TV

The Afternoon Play (BBC1)

A TELEVISION viewer who had spent the last 25 years in a coma or in Australia would recognise most of what goes on in the schedules either by name – *Parkinson, Horizon* – or by nature: police series, quiz shows and costume dramas are all represented now much as they were then. The only glaring new presence for our couch potato just back from Oz or hospital would be reality TV, while the one stark absence would be the single play.

As recently as the early 90s, the BBC was still screening at least one one-off drama each week, spending tens of millions annually on single scripts in a continuation of the tradition which had made *The Wednesday Play* and *Play For Today* two of the most admired brand-names in television history.

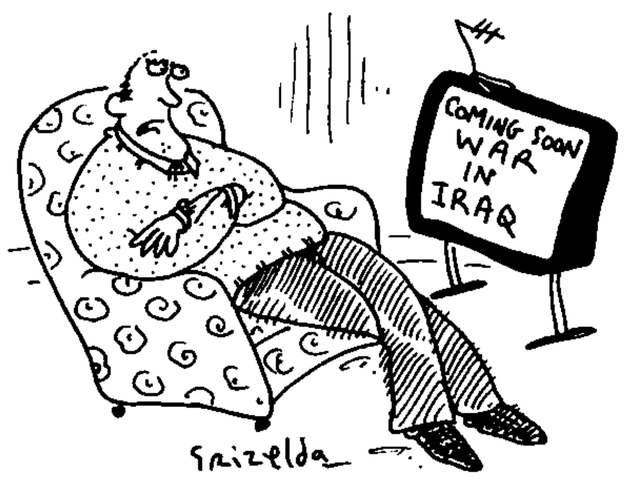
Of course, memory is selective. For all the *Cathy Come Homes*, *Bar Mitzvah Boys*, *Licking Hitlers* and *Boys From The Blackstuffs* produced by these slots, there were dozens of mind-numbing pieces about Scottish teenagers who think they might be gay after seeing their mother rogering the lodger and two-hour dialectics about the future of trades unionism. Yet, even so, something was lost when the vast BBC drama budget was realigned towards the serial – *EastEnders*, *Casualty*, *Holby City* – and cinema-release films such as *Billy Elliot* and *Iris*.

But, now for a single experimental week at least, the single drama has returned. **The Afternoon Play** (BBC1) borrows a title and idea from Radio 4's nap-time theatre but it was soon clear that, in the television versions, the choice of stories and actors was inspired not by the wireless but by daily soap opera.

Look at the plots. Apparently reflecting the old stereotype that only non-working women watch television in the afternoons, the storylines usually seemed infused with the spirit of either Valentine's Day or Shirley Valentine's Day. The slot kicked off with Rowan Joffe's *Turkish Delight* in which a lady whose fella couldn't get it up, then lost his job, gained income and self-respect by becoming a belly-dancer in a Turkish restaurant in London. After two minutes, book-makers stopped taking bets on the chances of the final scene taking place at Heathrow.

Jane English's *Girls Weekend*, which rounded out the week, suggested that the script editors had not strictly imposed the old

War protester



"Oh no! Not this again"

screenwriting rule that too many coincidences in a plot start to seem sloppy. A ladette on her hen night discovers that her bessie mates, due to be her bridesmaids, have all previously slept with the groom. Luckily, despite the accidental loss of the envelope containing the cash to pay for the hotel where the celebrations are taking place, the desk clerk is the bride-to-be's first love, setting up an erotic tension between future plans and past experience.

The casting is just as sudsy. The husband with amnesia in play two (*Coming Up For Air* by Matthew Parkhill) used to be in *Holby City*, as did the postman in play four (Lesley Clare O'Neill's *Heroes And Villains*.) But the biggest inheritance from daily soap opera is the avoidance of any of the politics which gave *Play For Today* and *The Wednesday Play* their power. In line with the rest of Blairite culture, everything is domestic and personal, hand on the shoulder, not hand at the throat.

If the content has already suffered from the perception that nobody wants ideology these days – *Play For Today* feels so yesterday to current executives – it's further bowdlerised by the time-slot. Realistic scenes and dialogue aren't considered appropriate in the early afternoon, so writers and directors are reduced to euphemism.

In *Turkish Delight*, orgasm is represented by a glass of water trembling on a bedside table and – get this – the glass isn't even in the room where the unseen rutters are but next door. In *Heroes And Villains*, when the gangsters get agitated, they say "frigging". If the experiment establishes anything, it's the difficulty of making realistic drama when the parameters of content are set by Australian afternoon soap operas.

The biggest departure from the single-play tradition, though, comes when the enterprise starts to recall not Radio 4 but Radio 2. During at least two points in every play – and every few minutes during *Heroes And Villains* – there are interludes in which easy listening songs play on the soundtrack while the characters carry on their business in pop-video mute. An irritating device anyway, it becomes even more so because the play-list is so literal and predictable: "Chapel Of Love" for the start of the hen's night, and so on.

When old television programmes are restored, they need to be updated. *Kojak*'s coming back soon, played by a black actor, which is fine. But, while many long to see the single play back in the schedules, the point is that the genre's great tradition was built on edgy dramas screened in peak-time, not soft ones shunted out after lunch.

'Remote Controller'

DUMB BRITAIN

Steve Wright's Big Quiz, Radio 2

Wright: Who played agent 007 in the 1989 film Licence To Kill?

Contestant: Er... James Bond?

Wright: What kind of creature is a kiwi?

Contestant: A fruit.

Wright: Johnny Weissmuller died on this day. Which jungle-swinging character clad only in a loincloth did he play?

Contestant: Jesus.

The Machine, ITV Granada

Computer-Generated Host: What popular satirical magazine has been edited by Richard Ingrams and Ian Hislop?

Contestant (*from a choice of four answers*): *Hello!* magazine.

MEDIA NEWS

A LAMINATED card has arrived on every BBC desk, containing the fruits of another "Making it Happen" initiative. It's a list of "BBC Values".

Coupled with a statement from Greg Dyke ("don't just throw this in the bin"), it represents "the things we cherish and aspire to" in a series of bland, marketing-speak messages about "having fun" and "respecting people", etc, etc.

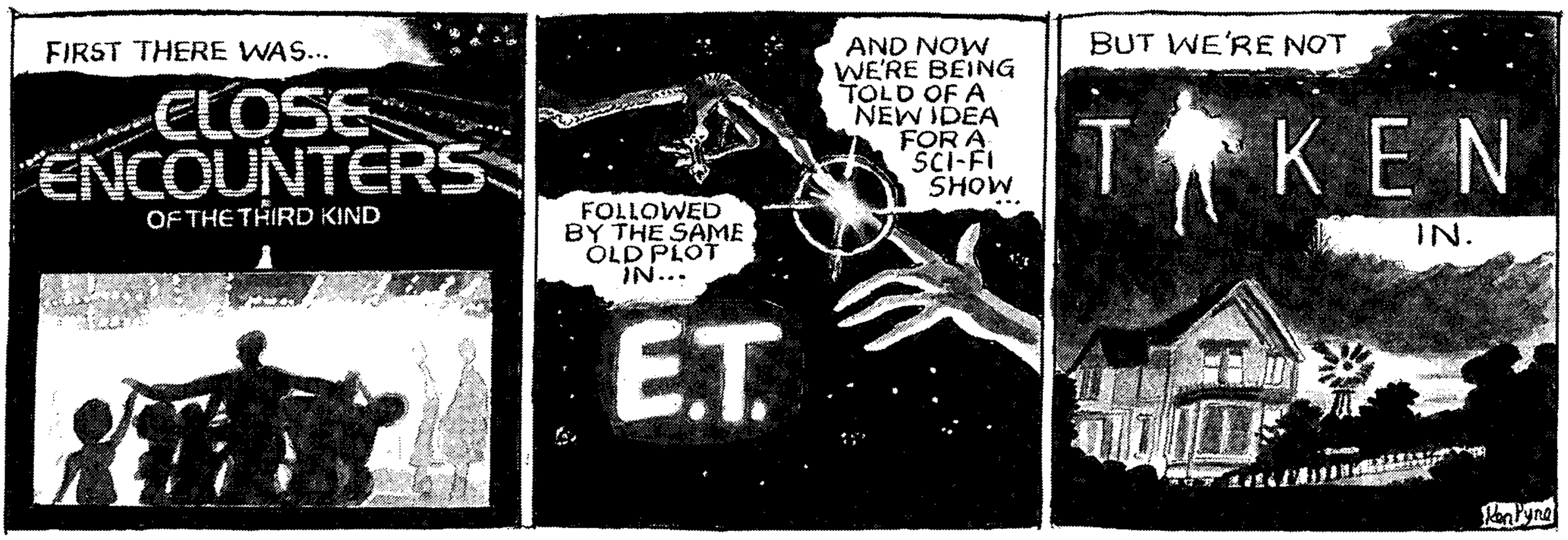
Now "audiences are at the heart of everything we do", a value that embraces the rush for ratings as a Good Thing. Furthermore, "we treat everyone as valued members of the team" at last.

This will come as a surprise to the 300 or so cleaners and ancillary staff, some of whom have worked for the Beeb for decades, who are to be handed over to the care of Land Securities Trillium, the minimum wage outfit that handles the BBC's property concerns.

It will also raise eyebrows in the BBC newsroom, where the value of "putting the BBC as a whole before personal or sectional interests" is about to be tested by a round of 100 or so redundancies.

THE forthcoming redundancies at BBC News have been caused by "an overspend" thanks to Roger Mosey's efforts to set up the *Six*, the *Ten* and the *One O'Clock* news teams in competition with one another with their own menageries of dedicated reporters and correspondents.

Different sets of news "values" mean that little material is ever shared and sometimes as many as three crews are sent to cover events. That figure is likely to expand now that BBC4 and BBC3 are hunting for new "distinctive" news audiences alongside News 24, the regional and the national bulletins.


FIRST THERE WAS...
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS
OF THE THIRD KIND
AND NOW WE'RE BEING TOLD OF A NEW IDEA FOR A SCI-FI SHOW...
FOLLOWED BY THE SAME OLD PLOT IN...
E.T.
BUT WE'RE NOT
T K E N
IN.
Ken Pyne

IN THE last *Eye* we reported on a deal between the BBC and Arab satellite broadcaster Al-Jazeera to share news content. While the BBC is to be congratulated on saving Al-Jazeera from a fate worse than death – being submerged within the Dirty Digger's empire – the corporation has no cause to feel too pleased with itself. Had it not been for earlier vacillations, the Beeb might today be in control of the station.

From 1994 the BBC broadcast an Arabic television news service to the Middle East in partnership with Saudi company Orbit. Predictably, the Saudi investors soon lost patience with the "biased" (ie independent) tone of its reporting.

The final straw was a *Panorama* documentary about executions in the desert kingdom, which led to Orbit threatening to withdraw its cash if editorial policy was not brought into line with Riyadh. Instead of pressing on regardless and seeking out new partners, John Birt's craven response was to close the station.

Fortunately, the Crown Prince of Qatar had more vision and courage than Birt and took on virtually all its staff, who had been trained at BBC expense, bringing them under the then unknown banner of Al-Jazeera.

WHAT do you do if a TV series you've commissioned bombs in the ratings? Why, sign up the host for another series, of course!

Carlton's pisspoor HTV West couldn't believe its luck when Edwina Currie went public about her affair with John Major just a week before she presented her first late-night TV talk show, *Currie Night*, with the promise that "It's hot and spicy!" (*Geddit?*) Despite the sort of publicity producers could only dream of, *Currie Night* attracted just 5 percent of the available audience and has limped along ever since.

One subject not up for discussion in the second series will be low pay. Carlton researchers working for la Currie are paid either nothing – they're on "work experience" – or the not exactly hot and spicy £50 a day.

DURING the first TV series of *Dead Ringers* on BBC2, there was a running sketch concerning a fictional BBC children's series. It featured crude, shapeless characters called "blobs" and was a satire on the BBC's current obsessions: heavy on the marketing, light on imagination.

Imagine everyone's surprise when, less than two months later, the mascots invented to brand the new BBC3 station turn out to be… crude characters called, er, Blobs.

JUST FANCY THAT!

Within a year, she'd become an overnight sensation. Her first album, Voice of an Angel, went double-platinum…

— BBCi website profile of "newsmaker" Charlotte Church.

THE death of Maurice Gibb will have been a huge tragedy for his family, but it was a handy career-booster for the BBC's pisspoor, yet daringly ambitious Miami correspondent, Fergal Parkinson.

While family members arrived for what they hoped would be a "private memorial service", Parkinson recorded a piece to camera complete with close-ups of mourners arriving for the ceremony, using a long lens from across the street.

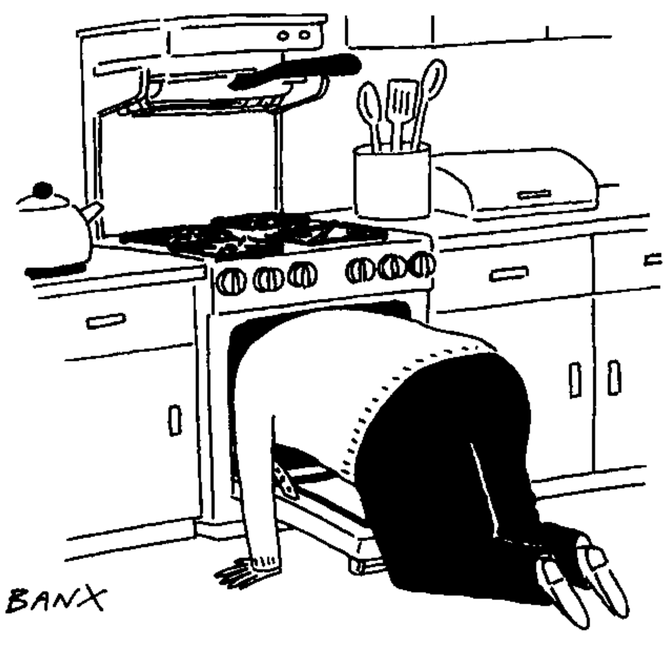
And in case any editors missed his "scoop", Parky penned a modest article for the Beeb's in-house rag *Ariel* about his struggle to clinch what he calls "one of the biggest celebrity exclusives the BBC has had in many years" – an interview with Maurice's shocked brothers.

DAVID FRANK, the wealthy boss of RDF Television, wrote two missives to the *Eye* following our story two issues ago about sackings, office closures, legal actions and other shenanigans. In the first letter Frank said he "rather enjoyed" the article; in the second, he boasted that the firm was going from strength to strength.

What the old porn peddler omitted from his success story was the fact that yet another highly paid executive has left the company "by mutual consent".

Until being lured by David Frank to RDF, Jane Fletcher was a BBC high-flyer. According to RDF's own website, she was "a terrifically talented producer and executive who has very strong relations with the key entertainment commissioners". But not strong enough, it seems: she left less than a year after joining.

Frank's strategy from the beginning has been to hire senior executives from the main broadcasters, promise them the earth (plus a big salary) and then hope that they'll get lots of lucrative commissions for RDF from their old employers. But it doesn't quite work like that; and the bulk of RDF's programme commissions are now down to just one man, Stephen Lambert, Frank's number two. What would happen to the company if Lambert walked off into a big job with a broadcaster is anyone's guess.



Delia retires

OUT OF CON-TEXT

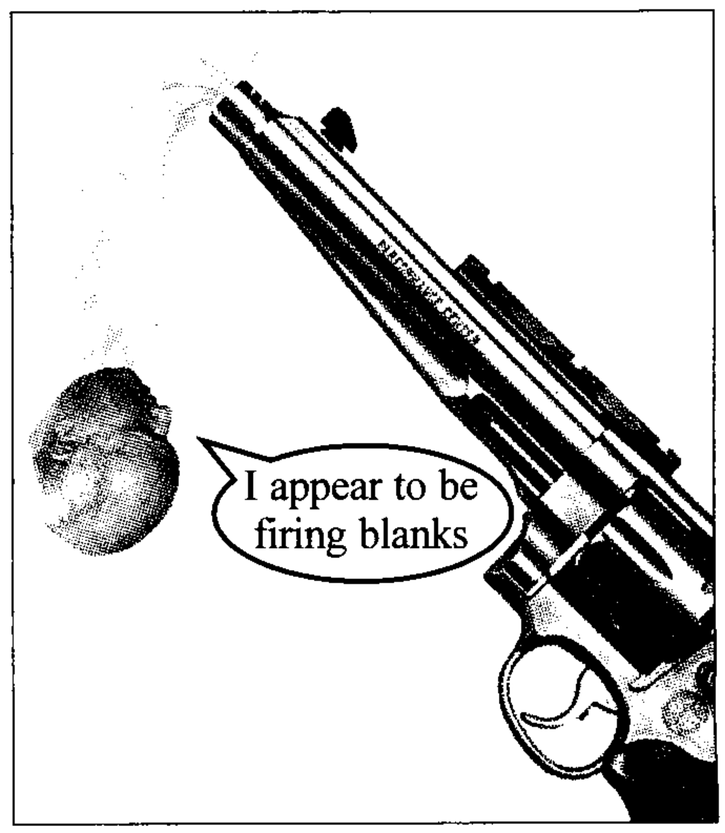
AN award for creativity is due to the producers of *Romeo and Juliet: The Musical* – only for their imaginative use of critics' quotes on the posters that litter London's West End.

"Extraordinary!" is the quoted verdict of the *Daily Mirror*, though lack of space means the reasons for this verdict – that the "ridiculously shallow updating… bordered on farce" and "reduced the tragedy to a joke" – were somehow left off the publicity material.

Similarly the context of the *Independent*'s "A mega-hit musical" verdict is strangely omitted too. In fact Geraint Lewis observed that it had been just such a thing in France – but that over here it was a "shoddy deal… lazy… an unholy mess".

SPLIT personalities

Bob Moore



Iain Duncan Smith & Wesson

Warballs

"This new album is very much about how creatively and musically and vocally I've progressed through my touring. But lyrically I just wanted to say, 'This is me as a 21-year-old in this world that has changed since 11 September'."

— Craig David, interviewed on CNN.

"A figure-skating judging scandal was about the last thing International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge needed at the first major sporting festival since the events of 11 September."

— *Viet Nam News.*

"The terrorist seeks to change your way of life. The best way to deal with him is to ignore him and carry on exactly as you would have done in the absence of terrorism. This is a little difficult to do if you have only one Windows system."

— Advert for HyperOS Systems in *PC Pro* magazine.

"The horrific events of 11 September are continuing to fuel the Auckland property market. "

— New Zealand property bulletin.

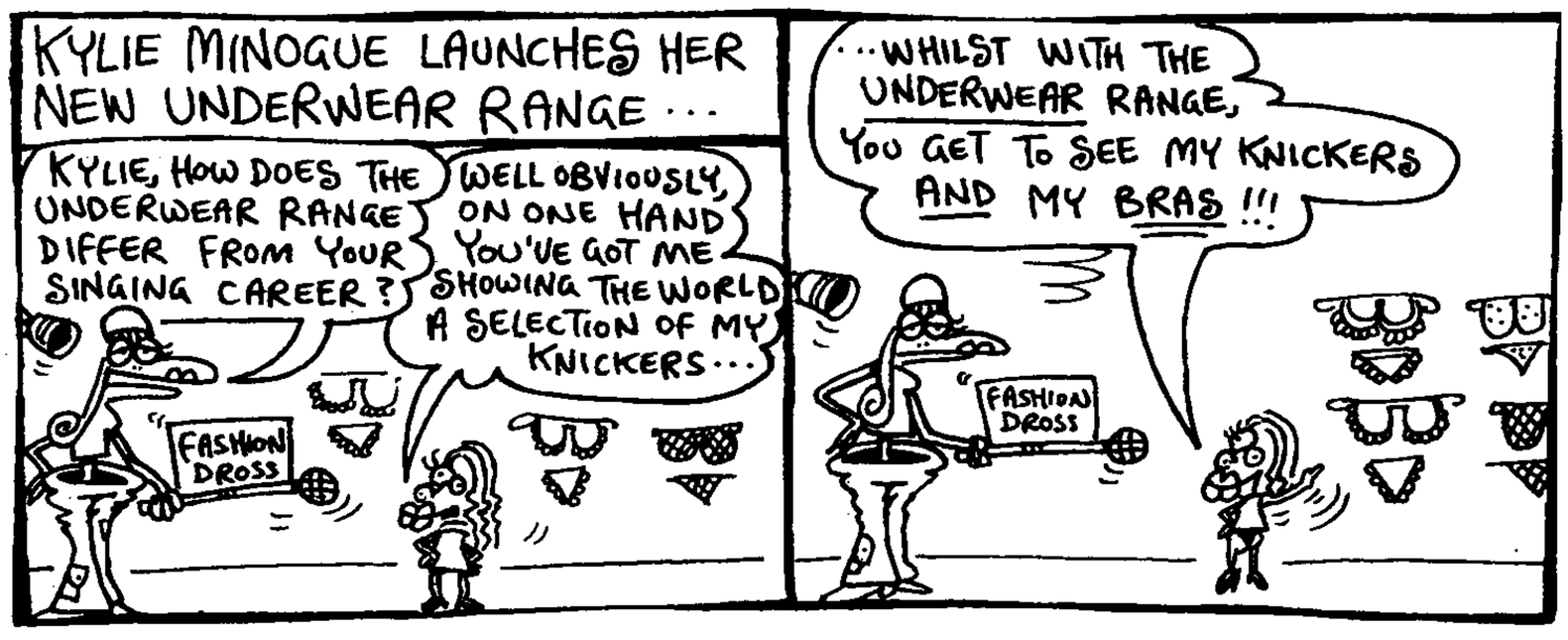
QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"You're a gynaecologist, what are you feeling today?"

— Jon Snow on Channel 4 News, interviewing an Iraqi doctor.

SUPERMODELS

KERBER


KYLIE MINOGUE LAUNCHES HER NEW UNDERWEAR RANGE…
KYLIE, HOW DOES THE UNDERWEAR RANGE DIFFER FROM YOUR SINGING CAREER?
WELL OBVIOUSLY, ON ONE HAND YOU'VE GOT ME SHOWING THE WORLD A SELECTION OF MY KNICKERS…
FASHION DROSS
…WHILST WITH THE UNDERWEAR RANGE, YOU GET TO SEE MY KNICKERS AND MY BRAS!!!
FASHION DROSS

DOWN ON THE FARM

LAST November the Beloved Leader's farming supremo Rosa Klebb (aka Mrs Margaret Beckett) announced that responsibility for keeping out the illegal imports of infected meat blamed for Britain's £8bn foot and mouth disaster would now rest solely with customs officials at our ports and airports.

No evidence has ever been produced to prove that imported meat did bring the disease into the country. But from the moment the epidemic began, farmers were agitating for Britain to adopt something like the system in place in the US, Australia and New Zealand, where the most rigorous checks are made on incoming passengers and their baggage.

Just before Christmas Rosa's new system was put to the test by one of Britain's ever-growing number of ex-dairy farmers, Peter Weston-Davies, when he arrived at Stansted airport from a holiday in France. Pushing his trolley full of freshly-shot venison, he marched into the EU passport holders' area to find no customs officer. Anxious to confirm that Britain was now being properly protected against any repeat of the 2001 catastrophe, he headed for the red non-EU passport holders' zone, designated for passengers with "something to declare".

Again no customs officer was on duty, but at least there was a telephone for passengers to alert customs staff that they wished their baggage to be inspected. Down the line, he asked for someone to look over his pack of meat. He was told he would have to wait four and a half hours, the time it would take an inspector to drive to Stansted. So startled was he by this approach that he decided to change his tune. What, he asked, if he confessed that it was not venison he was pushing in his trolley but a consignment of crack cocaine. The customs official laughed and said: "Then you'd better just keep pushing, sir."

In March 2001, when the foot and mouth epidemic was at its height, the Maffia was only too keen to claim that the disease must have been caused by illegal imports of meat. The then farming minister Nick Brown even suggested, again on no evidence, that the epidemic must have been started by smuggled meat served in a Newcastle Chinese restaurant (for which he later had to issue a grovelling apology, if only on the grounds that his claim might have been interpreted as racist).

A legal meat importer, Clive Lawrance, revealed with the aid of *Farmers Weekly* that thousands of tons of illicit meat were coming into Britain each year and that there were virtually no controls in place to stop it. In October 2001 even the NFU submitted a 30,000-signature petition to the government, asking for something to be done. Finally last year junior farming minister Lord Whitty proudly announced that two specially-trained sniffer dogs would be sent to Heathrow to trot along the conveyor belts checking passengers' luggage.

In October *Farmers Weekly* reported that a dispute over office costs had led to a delay in the setting up of a six-man team to target illegal meat imports at Heathrow. In December Mr Weston-Davies tested whether the system was yet working at Stansted, with the results reported above. Now the word is that one of the dogs at Heathrow has developed an aversion to conveyor belts and has been allowed to stay in its kennel with a sick note. For zeal in policing Britain's frontiers, it scarcely compares with the hundreds of customs officials recruited to steal 20,000 vehicles from cross-channel motorists for the crime of bringing in a few cartons of B and H.

'Muckspreader'

SIGNAL FAILURES

RICHARD Bowker, chairman and chief executive of the strategic rail authority (SRA), is doing his bit to encourage businesses to switch freight from road to rail. He's frozen the grants which have been awarded over 25 years to, er, encourage businesses to switch freight from road to rail.

As the grants attracted funding from other sources (usually private), the SRA's decision will prevent millions in outside investment. Good move.

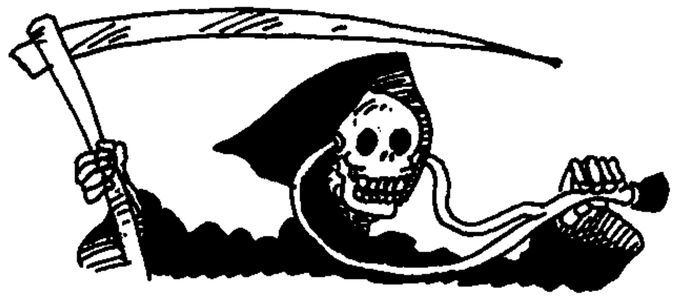
Meanwhile, Bowker has also taken revenge for a critical press release issued by the Rail Freight Group (RFG) by dismissing his widely-respected freight director, Julia Clarke. She happens to be married to Lord Berkeley, chairman of the RFG. After accusing her of breach of confidence Bowker told her their working relationship had broken down.

Dismissing someone because of what their spouse does or says is unusual, and it will be interesting to see if anyone else in the SRA is scrutinised for potential marital conflicts of interest.

● BOWKER is also keen on preaching, of course. "Your focus has got to be to deliver performance... and to get a grip on costs. And I don't mean stabilise them at the levels to which they have risen, I mean get them down," he told rail managers last month. Five sentences later he said: "The SRA is pretty settled now in terms of team and structure."

So it's OK then for his organisation to stabilise costs at their inflated level after recruiting hundreds more staff (*Eye* 1067). But if the railway budget is shrinking and there are fewer grants, projects and services to administer, why shouldn't the SRA slash its payroll 500 too?

'Dr B. Ching'



DOING THE ROUNDS

A doctor rants...

THE soon-to-be-enforced European working time directive (*Eye* 1070) for junior doctors is bollocks. It will make working conditions deteriorate for many of those it is designed to protect; and compromise patient safety by monkeying about with sleep patterns, limiting time on the wards and reducing continuity of patient care (essential to safe and effective medical practice).

It will also reduce our exposure to specialist training by 20 percent. Will training be extended by 20 percent to compensate? Will consultants be able to pick up the service commitment slack? Is there the intention to expand the number of registrars and other junior grades to fill the coming service shortfall? No.

— Dr Andrew Broadley, specialist registrar in cardiology, Torbay Hospital.

Another doctor rants...

THE SIFT (special increment for teaching) system distributed by universities to compensate hospitals for the extra cost of teaching medical students is at best shambolic and at worst reprehensible.

At Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, around 10 percent of their income derives from SIFT – it amounts to about £19.5m per annum for Sheffield, of which the Hallamshire campus receives around £12m. Most hospitals have no way of accounting for that money. The last time it was accounted in Sheffield was 1990.

I was appointed as a senior lecturer here in 1992, with a particular brief to run the teaching. My directorate has taken no action to adjust consultant job-plans or workload to provide teaching time. SIFT is just regarded as a general addition to the trust's income and is not earmarked. The university puts research above teaching and the trust puts clinical service above teaching. Both institutions receive money for teaching, but each thinks the other should do it.

— Dr Michael Snaith, MD FRCP.

And Another...

SIR, A patient made a written complaint because I failed to say good morning to her when she attended an afternoon appointment. The fact that the complaint was made four months after the event and that the complainant is very hard of hearing seemed to escape the investigator of the complaint. The time taken for investigation etc resulted in the cancellation of approximately 35 appointments. Currently the wait for an appointment in our department varies from 16 to 26 weeks against a target of 12. If you do decide to publish the above please do not print my name.

Eye Win

HUW Llewelyn, the diabetes specialist who was suspended and sacked by Camarthenshire NHS trust after raising concerns about standards of care (*Eyes passim*), has won his claims for breach of contract and unfair dismissal at an employment tribunal.

Dr Llewellyn was suspended for over two years prior to his sacking in March last year, and was left without any income when his right of appeal to the secretary of state was denied. However, he is far from triumphant: "A lot of my friends seem to think it means I could go back to work, but I am not so sure. It's simply a technicality, a way of apportioning blame. My career is being ruined and my life is being destroyed, but I am happy to remedy it by either going back to work or being in a position where I can find another job."

M.D.

off your trolley

REEVE & WAY

ROTTEN BOROUGHS

FRANK'S FOR NOTHING

THE long-awaited trial of Frank McKenna, former deputy leader of Lancashire county council (*Eyes passim*), was halted at Chester crown court last month.

McKenna, agent for West Lancashire MP Colin Pickthall at the 1997 election, faced charges with John Fillis, former treasurer of the West Lancashire constituency Labour party, of conspiracy to defraud party accounts to help Thickpall's campaign. McKenna was also charged with perjury.

After days of legal argument behind closed doors, judge Roger Dutton "stayed" the case saying that he did not consider the public interest to be served by "the further expenditure of substantial sums of public money". Pickthall, who is foreign secretary Jack Straw's PPS, was spared an embarrassing session in the witness box.

While making no criticism of the police investigation, the judge said he doubted that the pair could receive a fair trial given the time that had elapsed since the alleged offences took place. There was a certain irony here, because an earlier trial had begun before the judge in June last year, but had to be abandoned after a juror dropped out and there was no reserve available. The judge also made the interesting observation that as West Lancashire was a safe Labour seat, the "possible over-expenditure of monies" could not have affected the result.

McKenna claims the whole affair was nothing but a conspiracy by enemies in the Labour party, based on a nit-picking allegation about whether there had been "too much photocopying" during the election campaign. In fact it arose after the *Eye* revealed in 1999 that Thickpall's election expenses had exceeded the legal limit by nearly £12,000 and that the accounts signed by McKenna had contained forged receipts. Who was responsible for the forgery must now remain a mystery.

MAL ADROIT

FOLLOWING the *Eye*'s exposure of the cosy relationship between the consultant advising Monmouthshire county council on its proposed sell-off of council houses and the chief executive of the "independent" consultants advising tenants (they're married), the council has been backtracking somewhat.

Malcolm Temple's firm, Beha Williams Norman, is still advising the council (*Eye* 1068), but he has been taken off the contract. Wife Wendy's Heart of England consultancy has been sacked as tenants' advisers. Mal and Wend's double act turns out to be a tried and tested one. When BWN was appointed to advise Exeter city council on a proposed stock transfer two years ago, guess who turned up to "protect tenants' rights and provide independent advice"? Sadly HoE's impartial counsel was not needed for long: tenants overwhelmingly rejected the proposal and the housing stock remained in council hands.

● FORMER East Staffordshire borough council leader Dennis Heptonstall, joint runner-up in the *Eye*'s brass-necked councillor of the year award 2002 (*Eye* 1070), has announced that he will not be standing for ESBC at the May elections. Heptonstall was nominated after he disappeared on an unannounced camper van trip to Uganda with his deputy, Penny Perry, leaving colleagues and public in the lurch. He then reappeared just in time to claim his allowances and be nominated by county council cronies for the chairmanship of a powerful health scrutiny committee. There's only one thing to say, really: *so farewell, Den*...

PUSS IN JACKBOOTS?

HOW to explain the narrow victory of the British National Party in a by-election for Mixenden ward of Calderdale, west Yorkshire?

Pundits were quick to conclude it was yet another twang from what home secretary David Blunkett calls the "coiled spring society". But there are some far more obvious explanations for local disillusionment with the established parties at the council, which has a Tory majority but no overall political control.

These include the recent 43 percent pay increase councillors awarded themselves while considering a council tax rise of more than 16 percent. Then there have been the regular court appearances of certain Calderdale councillors. In September last year Tory David Ginley narrowly avoided prison after pleading guilty to two counts of forgery; and on 17 January this year Cllr Colin Stout (Ind), chairman of the Brighouse road safety committee, was fined £500 for, er, drink-driving.

Of all the candidates in the by-election only one actually lived in the ward. So was the result really down to racial disharmony – or more to the failure of the established parties to engage with the problems of a run-down estate?

HEALTH WARNING

IT'S BUSINESS as usual for Southwark council's housing benefit and council tax service provider, Liberata (formerly CSL), with innocent benefit claimants receiving threats of court action over money they do not owe.

Shortly after *Eye* 1028 told the stories of George Hilleard, who hanged himself after he mistakenly received a court summons for non-payment of council tax, and pensioner Frossa Carlettides, who suffered a heart attack after CSL wrongly told her that she owed £14,525.93 housing benefit, CSL assured Southwark residents that procedures would be put in place to prevent such mistakes happening again.

However, on 17 January Liberata wrote to Hilleard's neighbour, Maria Taylor, demanding she pay back £12,822.81p housing benefit immediately or face court action. Fortunately, when a shocked Taylor told Liberata that she actually owed not a penny, it admitted its mistake. But it's been unable to explain the "administrative error".

AIDAN ABETTING

DONCASTER'S deputy mayor Aidan Rave has announced an amnesty on bad debts.

Independent councillor Margaret Pinkney objected to this, arguing that councillors and officers who owed the borough money after the Donnygate scandal should be "named and shamed". Rave retorted: "We are trying to move forward in this town. I can't believe that you do not listen, councillor!"

Fact: although a number of councillors were convicted on sample charges of thieving, they and others – including still-serving members – were discovered by police to have overclaimed expenses to the tune of many thousands of pounds. They now appear to have got away with it, in the name of "forward movement".

Meanwhile Cllr Rave last week announced a council tax rise of 15 percent. It should at least help meet the cost of the council's generosity to the crooks who still sit in its chamber.

EDUCASHUN NEWZ

MORE on Nord Anglia, the thrusting education company that promises parents and school governors big cost savings from privatisation.

Nord Anglia specialises in administrative functions in schools like payroll, personnel and finance. But the news from Kensington and Chelsea, a London borough where Nord Anglia notched up considerable successes in the recent past, is not good.

Governors of two schools there have sacked Nord Anglia from administering the payroll and personnel services after only a few months. Schools staff found they had to do work Nord Anglia had contracted to do, and then hidden charges were suddenly exposed.

EDUCATION ministers face a possible court battle to save schools across Britain from a bill for more than £15m from an IT firm that patented the idea of "wireless" school registers.

Frontline Technology patented the use of wireless networks for school registers and other data on pupils in the early 1990s. The firm announced on 1 January that it was prepared to sell licences to schools so they could legally use wireless systems which many have already installed. Prices range from £500 for a small primary school to £1,500 for a large comprehensive. Colleges and universities may face even larger charges. Frontline claims that only schools buying wireless technology systems from its sister company Bromcom are exempt from buying a licence.

The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) warned schools in December not to hand over any money until they knew the outcome of legal proceedings between Frontline and software company TASC, which had allegedly breached the patent. But that case has now been settled and TASC's documentation bears a new disclaimer stating that the use of their software "may be covered" by Frontline's patent and "may require a licence".

Legal advisers had assured DfES that the patent was invalid and likely to be revoked following any legal challenge. If they want to test that theory now, DfES itself will have to take court action.

IT'S GRIM UP NORTH LONDON

KNIFE & PACKER

AS YOUR LAWYER, QUIN, I MUST ADVISE YOU STRONGLY AGAINST CONDUCTING YOUR OWN DEFENCE
I'M SORRY, HUGO, BUT I FEEL VERY DEEPLY ABOUT THIS AND I WANT MY PASSION TO COME THROUGH TO THE JURY
I HARDLY THINK THAT "THEY SHOULD BE BLOODY GRATEFUL TO HAVE A FLOWERING CHINESE MAPLE OVERHANGING THEIR GRUBBY LITTLE COUNCIL HOUSE" IS A REASONABLE DEFENCE POSTURE

NOOKS and CORNERS

NORTHERN Ireland's diminishing stock of fine historic buildings is not being helped by the uselessness of the department of the environment NI, which has recently failed to protect one of the most important historic industrial monuments in the province from illegal demolition.

Tillie & Henderson's clothing factory, an impressive red brick structure with a cast-iron framed interior, stood prominently next to the River Foyle at the entrance to Londonderry. Designed by the local architect J.G. Ferguson and built in 1856, it was once the largest shirt-making factory in Europe and secured the dubious accolade of a mention in *Das Kapital*. It was also the first clothing factory to use steam power.

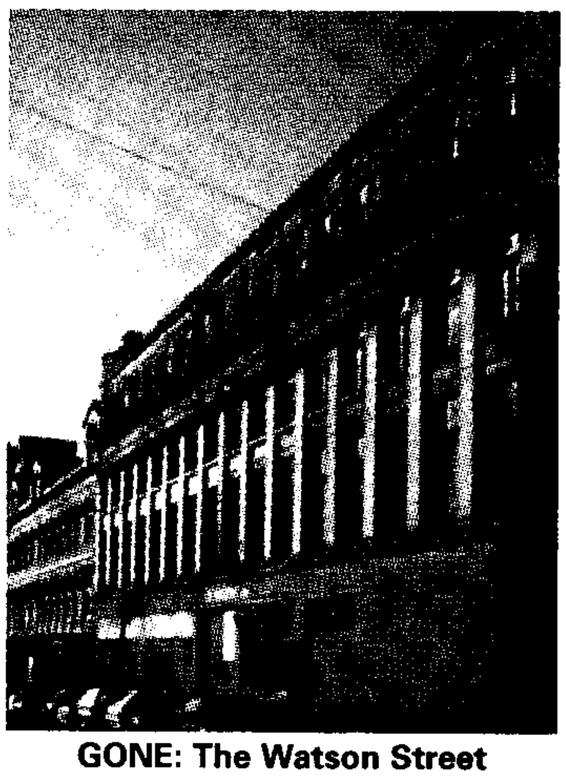
It was listed at B+, the equivalent of grade II*; and along with other similar mills, Tillie & Henderson's was a vital part of Derry's Victorian economy. As elsewhere, some of these other mills have been restored and converted into offices or student housing. The same could have happened with the Tillie & Henderson mill which had closed in the 1970s, and HEARTH, a local building preservation trust, was willing to take the thing on even after it had suffered severe fire damage.

Unfortunately the derelict but tough building was bought three years ago by Diljit S. Rana, a developer who, in his own estimation, has "a proven track record for saving and restoring and putting to use many of the old buildings (some 19th century) in Belfast." True to his track record, in July 2002 Mr Rana applied for listed building consent to demolish Tillie & Henderson's and to replace it with a new hotel.

This was vigorously opposed by Derry city council, the Foyle Civic Trust, the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society and others. However, as the DoE NI wondered what to do, the empty and unprotected mill "went on fire" – as they say in Glasgow – *37 times!* The DoE declined to serve an urgent works notice to secure the listed building and, in December, at a court hearing, declined to take third-party liability for it. Mr Rana, meanwhile, argued that the mill was now beyond saving – a claim disputed by independent engineers – and began to demolish it early in January, still without listed building consent.

There is no doubt about the illegality of this demolition. Mr Rana claims that "we had no other option under the circumstances but to act as we did to prevent any risk of damage to life and limb..." But he had made no attempt to fulfil his obligations by securing this listed building against vandals and arsonists: it was the city council which fenced off the damaged mill and tried to make it safe – all at public expense.

As the great historian and campaigner Sir Charles Brett has put it: "This is a major disaster and once again shows up the deficiencies of the heritage legislation and procedures in Northern Ireland." But what to do? Up till now prosecutions for demolishing listed buildings without consent in Northern Ireland have resulted in magistrates' courts imposing fines of a mere £5,000 – peanuts to the likes of Mr Rana. The Ulster Architectural Heritage Society argues that this case should be brought to the high court, where fines are unlimited; but this will not happen and nor will other listed buildings be safe unless and until the DoE NI starts fulfilling its responsibilities.



GONE: The Watson Street warehouse

SADLY I have another obituary: the second of the two most elegant warehouses at Glasgow Cross by Alexander "Greek" Thomson and his partner Turnbull, erected in 1876, has now gone.

The first, in Bell Street, came down in 1996 after decades of dereliction when a dangerous buildings notice served by Glasgow city council was ignored by its owner.

This avoidable loss concentrated people's minds and the council, together with Historic Scotland, began to consider schemes to save the second block in Watson Street, now listed at grade A.

A developer emerged who genuinely wanted to restore the structure and convert it into flats while building on the surrounding empty sites. After interminable negotiations with the city council and others, Alba Town Ltd came into ownership a year ago and secured listed building consent for its scheme.

By now prospects for the long-abandoned area east of Glasgow's ancient High Street were improving, with new developments and housing association projects going ahead nearby. All looked rosy – until part of the back wall of the warehouse suddenly collapsed last month, endangering the neighbouring building. The assiduous department of building control moved in and one of the diminishing number of surviving works by one of Glasgow's two internationally renowned architects is now a pile of rubble.

All this is sad, but not surprising. Glasgow may have been European City of Culture in 1990 and the Arts Council's City of Architecture and Design in 1999 but, time and again, listed buildings are allowed to become so dilapidated that demolition becomes the only answer.

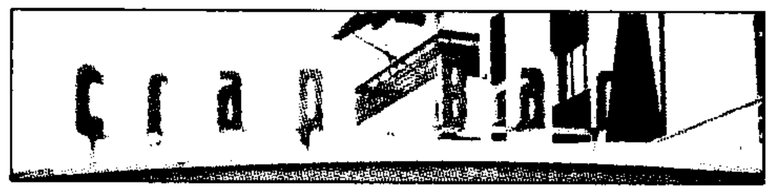
'Piloti'

I-SPY

S. Ireland **(Glynn Fletcher)**

Sardinia **(Nick Warren)**

Richmond, Virginia **(A.J. Clarke)**



Vienna (Jane Purcell)

£10 paid for similar submissions. *(SAE required for return of photographs.)*

MUSIC & MUSICIANS

BRUISED, battered and utterly demoralised English National Opera is trying to smile in the face of adversity – well aware that the accumulated mess of its financial, management and labour crises couldn't come at a worse time.

Sunday sees the first instalment of Channel 4's new TV series *Operatunity* which was designed to celebrate what ENO offers to the public but could well turn out to be a terrible misjudgement – and not least because its director, Michael Waldman, was the fly on the wall whose series *The House* did Covent Garden so much damage.

ENO chairman Martin Smith curses the day the company's former management ever agreed to let the cameras in. In the meantime he's been busy issuing supposedly crowd-calming statements like the long one last week which painstakingly explained why ENO is on course for a £4.2m deficit by 2004 but was then rather vague in explaining how it's all going to be sorted out.

One interesting thing about this statement was its quiet admission that the reign of ENO's former general director Nicholas Payne ended with a push rather than a jump. It's nothing we didn't know already; but ENO has always insisted Payne left of his own accord – not quite the same as Smith's new line which reads: "the board... had no choice but to split the general director's role into artistic and administrative components. Consequently Nicholas Payne's departure was announced".

Also interesting was its deliberate move to bring Caroline Felton into the picture (or drop her in it). Ms Felton is the acting executive director, wheeled in to fill the gap left by Payne. Smith's statement emphasised how she had been charged with responsibility "to lead the creation of a strategy for change". In other words, the mess of the past weeks is *her* fault. And when someone has to answer for it, *she* can be the one to go.

In fact she'll make an easy scapegoat, having come to ENO after a troubled time at Welsh National Opera where she acquired the reputation of an operatic Dr Beeching. Who better to blame for the explosive proposal that ENO should cut its full-time chorus by a third? (A proposal, by the way, that Martin Smith is now extremely keen for us to understand as merely an "idea").

'Lunchtime O'Boulez'

YOUNG BRITISH ARTISTS BY BIRCH

CHINESE NEW YEAR...
This pyrotechnic artist's brilliant! A Fire dragon exploding up the façade of Tate Modern, to disappear up its own chimney!
A perfect metaphor for conceptual art!
Er...

AD NAUSEAM

TOUGH times persist in adland. At least they do if you're one of the account execs who do all the work rather than the fat cats who cream off the profits.

Take Great Portland Street agency Grey, for example, an aptly-named industry workhorse famed for churning out FMCG advertising that doesn't win awards but gets the job done. It's an image they would love to shed in order to get in with the fancy-dans who advertise computer games and lager. And so late last year they hired a new chief executive in Garry Lace, formerly of fancy-dans TBWA.

His first move? £800,000 worth of what he called "restructuring", including making nearly a quarter of the workforce redundant. And Lace's salary? £800,000. Now that's what you call creative thinking...

"WE ARE looking to refresh our brand identity in the year ahead and reinvigorate it in the eyes of our customers. It is therefore essential that we consider all the resources and creativity available to us." So said Octavia Morley, marketing director of Woolworth's, after the high-street giant decided to put its advertising account up for pitch after 17 years of working with agency Bates.

Nothing at all to do with the Paul Kaye debacle, then (*Eye* 1061), when the comic said: "I've just done an ad for Woolies. What a cunt." Kaye was dropped last month, and now the ad agency that employed him has gone the same way.

IT WAS announced last week that this year's *Pop Idol* will be sponsored by multi-national baby-food specialists Nestlé, which two days before the announcement had dropped a £3.7m debt claim against the Ethiopian government after a high-profile protest campaign from Oxfam.

Nestlé obviously really needed that £3.7m from the Ethiopians: the sponsorship deal will cost it £6m, and it hardly brings a guaranteed return. The last sponsorship of *Pap Idol*, by mobile portal Vizzavi, was such a success that owners Vodafone killed off Vizzavi only two months after the programme ended.

PITY BBC1's poor *Football Focus*, once the flagship of TV's coverage of the Beautiful Game.

So desperate has it now become that it appears to have thrown itself at the feet of the PR and marketing people.

How else to explain a feature which appeared last Saturday and amounted to little more than a promotion for Pepsi Cola? Assorted Man Utd and Real Madrid stars had congregated earlier in the week for a screening of Pepsi's latest TV commercial – a desperate Spaghetti Western-style ad. Fortunately, the Beeb was on hand to cover this earth-shattering event. In exchange for broadcasting excerpts from the commercial and extended displays of brand logo and product, *Focus* was granted a couple of minutes to record anodyne interviews with several of the key players.

A clear breach of BBC commercial guidelines, surely?

Number crunching

3.25 ■ average hours of Andrew Marr on BBC per week

5 ■ hours of Andrew Neil on BBC per week

11 ■ hours of Jeremy Vine on BBC per week

Letters

Private Eye

Photo opportunity

Sir,

Remote Controller mentions (1072) Andrew Neill and "a famous photograph frequently printed in the Eye". I've been a subscriber for many years but I confess that I cannot recall this picture. Is there any possibility that you could refresh my memory?

Yours,
JOHN WILCOX,

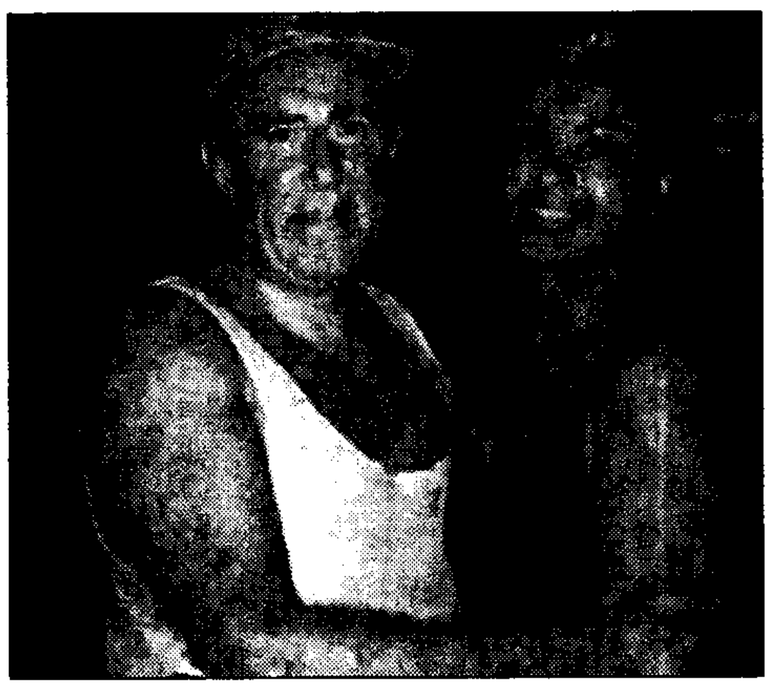
Via email.

Sir,

You criticise editors who deplore sleazy pictures but keep finding excuses to reprint them. If Lord Gnome had such a picture, could you illustrate what his own policy would be?

STEPHEN PRIDE,

Via email.



Flying sauce

Sir,

Just read the Crankwatch feature in the Eye 1071. Yes having a go at the Raelians is fair enough but when you extend it further you are getting into rather dangerous areas particularly when you haven't a clue what you are talking about. The researcher Timothy Good is anything but a "crank" as you describe. It is therefore rather amusing that you have chosen to believe the crank explanation of the 1980 Rendlesham Forest case. Let's remember that a number of professional US air force personnel, including the deputy base commander, witnessed and recorded, over a period of evenings, a flying craft of unknown origin performing strange movements over and around their air base, that left high radiation levels on the trees and clearly measurable markings on the ground. Soon after, these trees were taken down, and some flown to the US.

And you believe it was only rabbits – flying rabbits presumably. Do tell me more!

GERARD PEARSON,

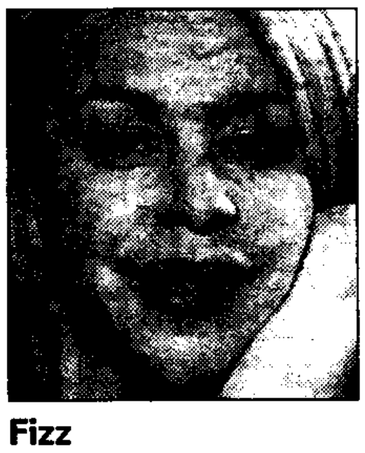
Lookalike

Sir,

Has anyone noticed the resemblance between collagen-enhanced tv starlet Leslie Ash, Fizz from the Tweenies and Lisa Weever from the Comfort fabric conditioner ads? Are they by any chance related? I think we should be told.

Sincerely,
JOHN WILLIAMS,

Via email.



Fizz

Leslie

Lisa

Scenes You Seldom See

Tate Modern

Cafe ›
Restaurant ›
Post Cards ›
Cinema ›
‹ Posters
‹ T-Shirts
Gift Shop ›
‹ Videos
Books ›

"We could just go and look at the paintings"

Keith Bennett

Sir,

I write in response to your two articles (1067/1068) about the search for the body of Keith Bennett and the total disregard for the efforts to find Keith's body.

Firstly, the role of Professor John Hunter and the use of forensic archaeology. I have worked closely with Prof. Hunter and others involved with the search of Saddleworth Moor, it is true that we have not yet been successful and it is also true that we have tried many different methods and equipment. I spent many years on the moor with volunteers, we had nothing more than spades, metal detectors and the need to do all we could to try and bring Keith "home". The only other option being to do nothing.

Since that time we have been fortunate enough to be able to use equipment, thanks to Professor Hunter and others, and methods that were not available to the police in the original search of the moor in the mid-Sixties or even during the last police search of the moor in the mid-Eighties.

As a family of one of the victims of Ian Brady and Myra Hindley we are always aware that there is never a guarantee that something will work and return Keith to us, but we are grateful that there are people who care enough to try.

It is never easy to accept failure of some search method or technology but the initial upset is overtaken by the fact that at least we tried and will continue to do so. Reference was made to the fact that I was reduced to tears after my hopes were raised and then dashed after working closely on the moor with Prof Hunter. It was not the first time that had happened and it may not be the last, nobody could live with the "moors murders" story and all that goes with it, not least constant press attention.

There was also another article about the BBC producer Duncan Staff and his "mutually advantageous" relationship with Myra Hindley. I know Mr Staff personally and I have to say that I look on him as one of our search team. If his involvement was solely for financial gain then he could have "cashed in" a long time ago as he knows a lot more than has been made public and has been a great help to me and the search for Keith. Duncan has been a great help to myself and the search for Keith as have the other people involved – known and unknown.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN BENNETT
(brother of Keith Bennett),

Manchester.

Bryson CAREs

Sir

We are flattered you chose to review Bill Bryson's African Diary this week. It took efforts from many dedicated people to get it on the shelves, including Transworld publishers who are donating all profits to CARE. It did seem a bit mean spirited of your reviewer to suggest Bill Bryson put one week into the project and to slag him off for writing 10,000 words (he actually wrote 11,500) while donating all his author's royalties to CARE. Oh, just one further correction please: He did not "exaggerate" the scary plane ride. I was on it and it was hell.

Bill did a fantastic job and he has brought the poverty issues facing this dynamic African country to a wide and, so far, appreciative audience. I believe he got the balance between humour and the serious stuff just right and I hope your review hasn't put other Eye readers off buying it – we need all the help we can get to end poverty. By the way, Brian Bagnall's caricature of Bill was great, would you consider auctioning it to the highest bidder for CARE? It looked like that bloke from The Royle family. Are they, by any chance, related?

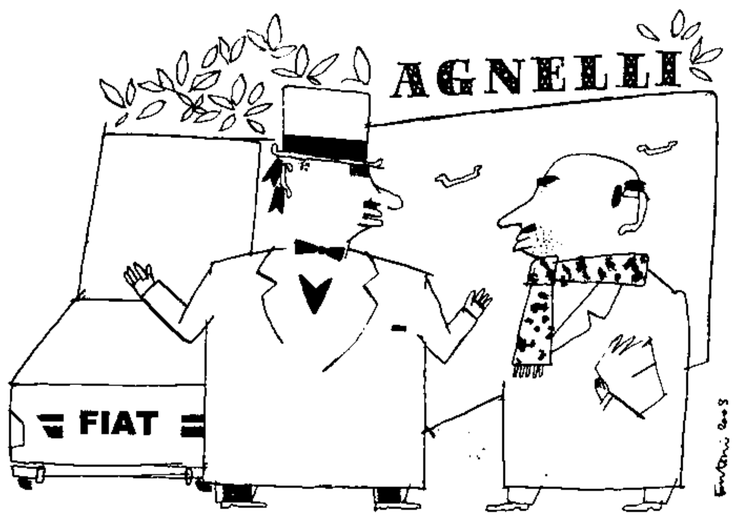
All best wishes,
DAN McLEAN,
CARE International UK,www.care.org

O·B·N

Gianni Agnelli was the most powerful businessman in Europe... Not only did he accomplish great industrial feats, he was also a legendary playboy. A latter-day Renaissance prince, a de facto king of his country, he had one of the greatest of lives...

TAKI
Sunday Telegraph

£10 paid for entries put forward for the Order of the Brown Nose.



"It keeps breaking down"

I've always been good at juggling a lot of balls in the air, but having fantastic staff helps. And when my balls do drop, my staff are always there to hoover them up.

Cameron Mackintosh, The Independent

Brighton rocks

Sir,

I see the Eye is still wrestling with the ethical conundrum of ridiculing trash journalism in Street of Shame while embracing the genre in Rotten Boroughs.

Readers should be aware that the "journalist" who puts Rotten Boroughs together never bothers checking anything sent in about Brighton & Hove. At least the Mail, Express and Daily Moron ring us up occasionally.

It is indeed a shame, as your anonymous source can only be one of a handful of Great Bores famous for their incoherent letters to our local paper. Ironically most of them make Dave Spart look cogent.

The piece in Eye 1071 about our bid to be European Capital of Culture and suggestions (not the council's) that we might twin with Miami Beach contains a howler in every other line.

As the Eye has little interest in facts I won't waste time with all the details. Suffice to say that no officers were sacked over the bid, as claimed. That would be absurd as we're proud of it.

Also, local media reported weeks before the Culture Capital announcement that culture councillor Ian Duncan had decided not to stand for election again.

Remember, being a smart-arse involves being smart as well as being an arse.

CLLR KEN BODFISH,
Leader, Brighton & Hove City Council.

Sir,

And another thing!

Regarding the piece about how "Philistine" we are here in Brighton & Hove (Eye 1070): work started in December on a new £12m city library, hence our using a small temporary one.

The demolished Essoldo you lament had not been used as a theatre since 1950. It had more recently been a bingo hall and a skittle alley. Nobody wanted it despite years of marketing.

Recent examples of Philistinism you missed are a £22m revamp of the Dome arts complex, a £10m transformation of the city museum and art gallery and a £10m restoration of the Royal Pavilion and gardens.

Not bad for a cultural desert is it?

CLLR JACKIE LYTHELL,
Chair, Capital of Culture bid, Brighton & Hove City Council.

LUVVIES

"I have a huge urge to do a musical in the way a woman knows it's time to have a child even before the man knows he's about to be a principal collaborator."

STEVEN SPIELBERG
Empire magazine

An occasional column devoted to gems from the acting profession. £10 paid for entries.

Law of probability

Sir,

Your correspondent Rick Bryant (Eye 1071) has, sadly, misunderstood the use of the word "probable" in the context of the deaths recorded as being from vCJD. Had he looked a little further on the very same website he would have found that a victim is defined as "probable" only when certain very specific clinical symptoms and non-invasive tests are satisfied. The diagnosis "probable" is only accorded when there is greater than 95 percent clinical diagnostic certainty.

The reason that fewer and fewer victims are subjected to an autopsy is that diagnosis from now well-recognised clinical symptoms is highly accurate and robust. Similarly, tonsil biopsy and non-invasive MRI scans are now reliable diagnostic tools in life. A diagnosis arrived at under the foregoing criteria is considered adequate by the DoH to entitle a victim to compensation.

Whilst those very good reasons should be sufficient in themselves, perhaps the best reason of all is that a victim's family no longer needs to face their loved one being subjected to autopsy.

Perhaps Mr Bryant would visit CJD Surveillance Unit's site at www.cjd.ed.ac.uk.

Yours sincerely,
D.J. CHURCHILL, (father of first ever recorded victim)
Devizes, Wiltshire.

Colemanballs

£10 paid for contributions

"With eight or ten minutes to go, they were able to bring Nicky Butt back and give him fifteen to twenty minutes."
NIALL QUINN
(Jeremy Levison)

"How are they defensively, attacking-wise?"
RON ATKINSON
(Thomas Ashby)

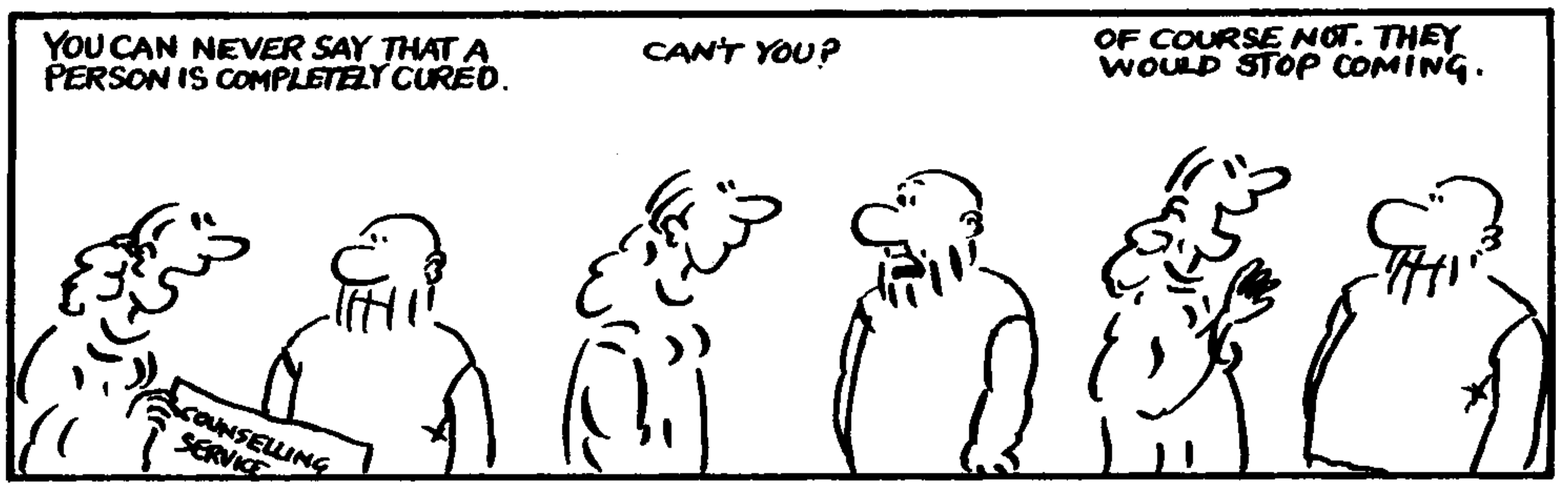
"Chris Kirkland... experienced shoulders on a young head."
Commmentator, Radio 5 Live
(Sian Williams)

"He [Dennis Bergkamp] is like an English equivalent of Teddy Sheringham."
TREVOR BROOKING, Radio 5 Live
(J.N. Saunders)

"... riding a typical McCoy race where, with five lengths to go, he literally picks up the horse and carries it over the line."
CLARE BALDING, BBC1
(John Matthews)

HOM SAP

AUSTIN



Letter from **India**
from Our Own Correspondent

WHILE US president George Bush is bent on unearthing the "smoking gun" of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in Iraq, he seems to care little about where the nuclear smoke is thickest: here in South Asia, where we continue to square up to our Islamic cousins across the border in Pakistan.

We both have nuclear weapons and no understanding over how to guard against their accidental use. We disagree vigorously on the status of Kashmir, an issue of huge sensitivity to both sides. We continue daily to exchange artillery, mortar and machine-gun fire along our northern, disputed border. And our leaders are again pushing the rhetoric of brinkmanship to the edge.

Foreign military intelligence estimates that we have around 80 to 100 nuclear warheads and Pakistan between 25 and 40, which the politicians simply look upon as "bigger and better" weapon systems with which to browbeat the other side. Alarmingly, over the past few weeks, senior leaders in both countries have been threatening to annihilate the other side if given the opportunity.

Our defence minister George Fernandes recently told BBC radio that Pakistan would be "erased" if it used nuclear weapons against us. Earlier, he declared that we were capable of absorbing a nuclear strike from across the border, and that Pakistan would be wiped out in the subsequent retaliation. He was responding to remarks by Pakistani president General Pervez Musharraf at a military gathering around Christmas that he would have been ready to use atomic weapons had India declared war last year when tensions were more than usually high.

And, as if to reaffirm that Armageddon is as likely to emerge here as from the Middle East or terror attacks in the west, both sides announced the setting up of their respective nuclear command mechanisms, while testing long-range missiles capable of carrying the agents of the apocalypse deep into each other's territory.

Our cabinet security committee has reiterated that the nuclear button rests exclusively with prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, who would be aided by multi-tiered advisory bodies. But while the committee reaffirmed its policy of no first-use of nuclear weapons, India expanded the scope for using WMD. Under the revised doctrine we will order a nuclear strike if our forces are attacked "anywhere in the world" – a euphemism for "in Pakistan" – with nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. Our bearded cousins across the frontier have made their use of chemical weapons con-ditional on "national security interests" – ie anti-India.

We slipped this corollary into our nuclear doctrine to counter the possibility of Islamabad using tactical or battlefield nuclear missiles against advancing Indian forces on Pakistani territory. Military planners in Delhi battled with this dilemma when they were poised for war last year, following the massive military build-up after the December 2001 attack on our parliament by gunmen from Pakistan-backed insurgent groups fighting in Kashmir.

After a 10-month stand-off the two sides completed their demobilisation last December. "We defeated our enemy without going to war," Musharraf declared, doing little to cool the tempers of our khaki boys. Pakistan's leader was implying that the threat of using nuclear weapons last year had deterred India from "adventurism". His is the only one of the world's seven nuclear weapon states where WMD are controlled by a highly Islamicised military that believes in *jihad* as an instrument of state policy. Pakistan's army and its Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate (ISID) were instrumental in raising and installing the Taliban regime in Kabul in the mid-90s.

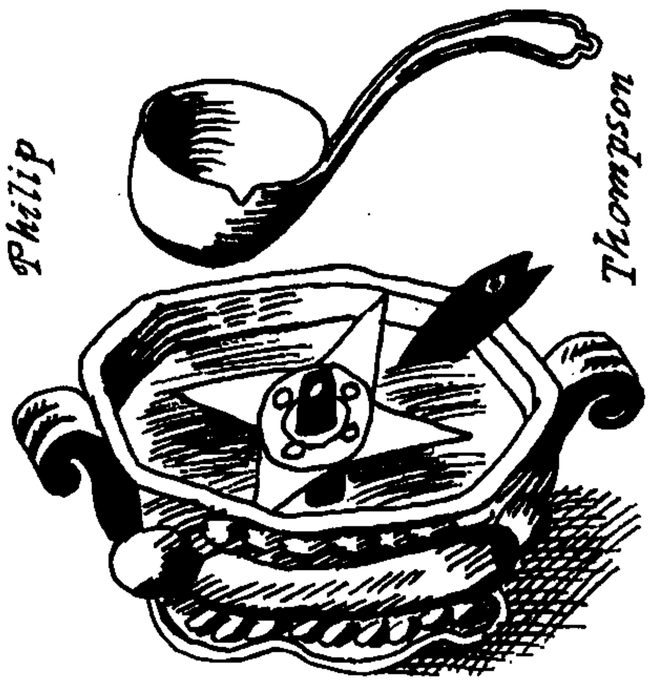
So as the citizens of Baghdad and big cities in Europe and America contemplate what horrors the future may hold, the tens of millions in our most teeming cities that see obliteration edge ever closer can only wonder why so little is being done about the reckless patriots who determine our destiny.

FUNNY OLD WORLD

COMPILED BY **VICTOR LEWIS-SMITH**

● "My exhibition was a breakthrough in the world of art," Marco Evarasti told magistrates at Kolding City Court in Jutland, "and it is a tragedy that it was cut short by the museum. The sight of ten goldfish swimming around happily inside five Moulinex food blenders was intended as a metaphor for the human condition, and I had no idea that so many visitors would choose to switch them on, and turn my work of art into fish soup."

Evarasti was in court to demand compensation for the early closure of his



exhibition, which had been staged at the Trapholt Kuntmuseet two years earlier. But Peter Meyer, head of the museum, defended his decision to close it down. "We cannot accept liability for the fish massacre, sad though it was. Mr Evarasti designed his exhibit so that museum visitors could push the blender button if they wished, and unfortunately many of them turned out to be ignorant Philistines. Instead of respecting it as a work of art, they seemed to think that they were at an experimentarium, where they could just go around pushing buttons and turning on switches. As a result, we were left with five litres of fish bouillon that soon began to smell, and we had no option but to close the museum and sluice the exhibits down the drain."

Evarasti's compensation claim was thrown out by Kolding City Court. He intends to appeal to the Crown Court. *(The Copenhagen Post, 14/2/02. Spotter: Alexa Jay)*

—●—

● *"Around midnight, I saw a crowd of people gathered round the bus shelter," Valery Levchenko told reporters in the southern Russian city of Stavropol, "so I went over to find out what was happening, and at first I couldn't believe what I saw. There was a man, obviously in pain, with his penis stuck frozen to the metal side of the bus shelter, and the crowd around him were all shouting advice, but nobody was actually helping him.*

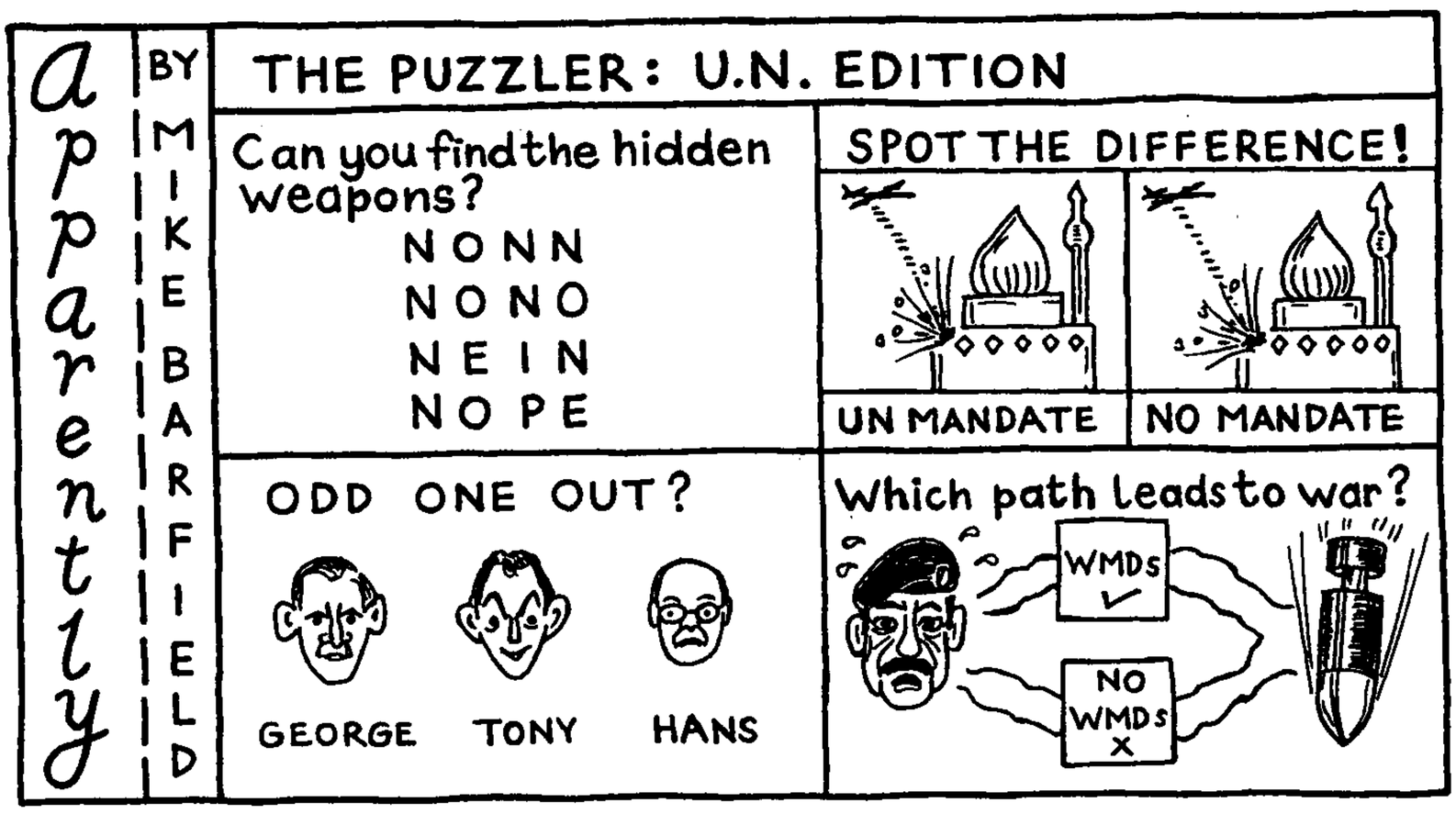
"I asked the man what had happened, and he told me that he'd spent the evening drinking beer in a local bar. While he was waiting for the bus, he felt an urge to urinate, so he unzipped his fly and started to piss. It was cold last night, really cold, minus thirty at least, and he was swaying a bit. So he leaned against the shelter for support, and that's when his penis touched the metal side and the skin instantly stuck fast. Nobody knew what to do, so I ran to a nearby chemist, borrowed a kettle of warm water, and poured it on the cold fusion of the metal wall and the man's penis, until they separated. Once he was free, I told him that he ought to get it checked out for frostbite, but he just ran off embarrassed and I never saw him again."
(Pravda, 13/1/03. Spotter: John Warburton)

—●—

●"You get your fors and your againsts, and a lot of people are quite horrified by it," Carl Whittaker told reporters in his home in Mackay, northern Queensland. "Some look and say 'oh my God,' but the people who know me best understand. They realise that I'm doing this out of respect for my old man, because he was my best mate."

Mackay was explaining why the dining room of his house in the Australian mining town of Mackay is currently decorated with the skin of his dead father. "Barry was very proud of the four large tattoos he had on his back and arms, and when he found out he was dying from cancer, he asked me to preserve them. It's one of those things he got in his head, and he wanted it done. Once something was in his head you couldn't get it out, he was that kind of bloke. I thought his request was a bit on the wild side myself, but that was his dying wish, and I had a lot of respect for the man, so I did it.

"After he died, I contacted a taxidermist, and he agreed to tan the skin. So he removed it, treated it, then gave it back to me in four pieces for framing. Barry was particularly proud of this tattoo, an eagle entangled with a snake. I admit that reactions to the memento are mixed, but I'm all in favour now. If nothing else, at least it preserves his memory." *(Herald Sun [Australia], 151/03. Spotter: Anon)*



ST ALBION PARISH NEWS

Incumbent: Rev. A.R.P. Blair MA (Oxon)

Hullo there!

This letter is being written not by your vicar, the Rev. Blair, but by someone with his feet rather more firmly on the ground with regard to what is going on here in St Albion's – ie, your parish treasurer.

I am sure you will all have noticed that the Vicar has been somewhat distracted of late from parish business.

Only this week he has flown off yet again to America to visit his new friend, the Rev. Dubya Bush of the Church of Latter-Day Morons – leaving me to cope not only with my own very heavy workload, but that of the absentee vicar as well.

Meanwhile, here in the parish, people are getting more and more worried about the way things are going.

"Gordon," they say to me, "what's happening to my savings? Will I get a pension in my old age? It looks like I'll soon have nothing left."

"Don't blame me," I say. "If you want to find someone to blame, ask yourself 'Who is going round scaring everybody with his mad talk of world war and terrorist attacks?'"

No wonder fearful folk are keeping their hard-earned bawbees under the mattress instead of giving it to the parish to be put to good use.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not complaining about anything the Vicar's been up to. I'm sure he has his own good reasons for wanting to do things which everyone else in the parish disapproves of, and good luck to him!

But if he wants to regain a bit of his lost popularity, my advice is that he should start learning to keep his word.

When he has promised, for example, that a certain person should be given a certain job after a certain time, then that person should be given that job and not kept hanging around doing all the hard work and getting no thanks.

And it doesn't need me to remind the Vicar what happens to those in this life who fail to honour solemn agreements with their colleagues in the vineyard.

As it is clearly written in the Scriptures, "And, lo, they shall be cast down into the pit, even unto outer darkness, along with their friend Mr Bush" *(Book of Job For Gordon, 3.12).*

And now, if you'll excuse me, I have some rather important work to do (unlike certain plum-clad gentlemen I could name, as they spend their time jetting round the world).

Yours faithfully,

G. Brown

(Hon. Treasurer and Vicar-in-waiting)

The Editor, Mr Campbell, writes:

I should point out that the letter from Mr Brown was not my idea, but was inserted at the insistence of its author, in the absence of the Vicar on very important business abroad. I would like to make it clear that despite recent tittle-tattle around the parish, and despite any conclusions you might draw from the above newsletter, Gordon and Tony remain very good friends and will continue to sing from the same hymn sheet, as they always have done in the past! A.C.

To Remember In Your Prayers

● Mr Robin Cook, who has questioned the vicar's plans for the St Albion's Old People's Home, suggesting that it would be wrong for the vicar simply to decide who was admittted. Let us pray that Robin will take seriously his threat to resign over this matter and will enjoy the peace and quiet of his retirement – but *not* in the Old People's Home because *I* decide who gets in there! T.B.

Parish Postbag

From the office of Mr Mandelson, former Churchwarden of St Albion's and now Chief Executive of the Handy Mandy Domestic Management Agency ('Any job considered – the bigger the better!')

Dear Sir,

As someone with considerable experience of organising large-scale entertainment events, such as the parish's highly successful Millennium Tent, may I offer my services in promoting St Albion's as a suitable venue for the Olympic Games in 2032.

Not only does St Albion's already have, in the Millennium Tent, a perfect all-weather sporting stadium (scarcely used), but

Yours faithfully,
P. Mandelson
Hinduja Mansions.

The Editor reserves the right to cut all letters from people he hates. A.C.

Verses by a Local Poet

Bush! What a Fascist bastard
Who makes a horrible
Pong with his bum. If I had my way
I would get hold of Bush and...

H. Pinter, St Albion's Primary School

The Editor reserves the right to cut all poems which are likely to cause offence to the Vicar and the Rev. Dubya in their quest for world peace.

PUBLIC NOTICE

From Mrs Jowell, Parish Co-Ordinator of Leisure Activities and Park Keeper.

I regret to inform parishioners that the proposed demonstration against the Vicar's crusade to rid the world of the Great Satan, planned to be held on the recreation ground, will not be allowed to go ahead, as it will be raining on that day and the ground will be muddy. As a result, parishioners will be put at risk and for safety reasons we have been advised that it would be highly irresponsible to allow any demonstration to go ahead.

Unless, of course, anyone would like to demonstrate in favour of the Vicar. The rain could well have stopped by then, leaving the grass in a safe condition for anyone who wishes to exercise their democratic right to support the Vicar. T.J.

A Message From The Rev. Dubya Bush, Presiding Minister, The Great Tabernacle, Washington

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord!

I bring you greetings as I welcome your pastor and my dear friend in the Lord, the Rev. Timmy Bloom and his good lady Cherylene. Your minister and I have broken bread together and prayed to the Lord, to bring down his wrath on the Evil One, even he that dwelleth in the halls of Babylon, yea, even to destroy him utterly with fire and brimstones, as is written in the *Book of Resolutions (14.41).* Or, if the world so prefer, the Evil One may be granted exile in the four-star hotel of his choice, along with his good lady wives.

Allelulia and God Bless America (and Britain, but not Germania and Franceland).

HOW AMERICAN MISSILE TECHNOLOGY WILL BLITZ SADDAM WITH PINPOINT ACCURACY

'WAR WILL BE OVER IN MINUTES' Say Experts

On Other Pages "We have no idea why space shuttle blew up," say U.S. experts. "We may never know."

THAT COLUMBIA EDITORIAL IN FULL

THE TRAGIC event that has shocked the world... the ultimate sacrifice... man's eternal quest... reaching out to the stars... perils of the unknown... Marco Polo... Christopher Columbus... final frontiers... giant leap for mankind... where did it go wrong?... no one has any idea... journey to the stars... spirit of adventure... the dream must go on for another seven pages...

© All newspapers.

Tonight On TV

The Unmissable Television Event of the Millennium

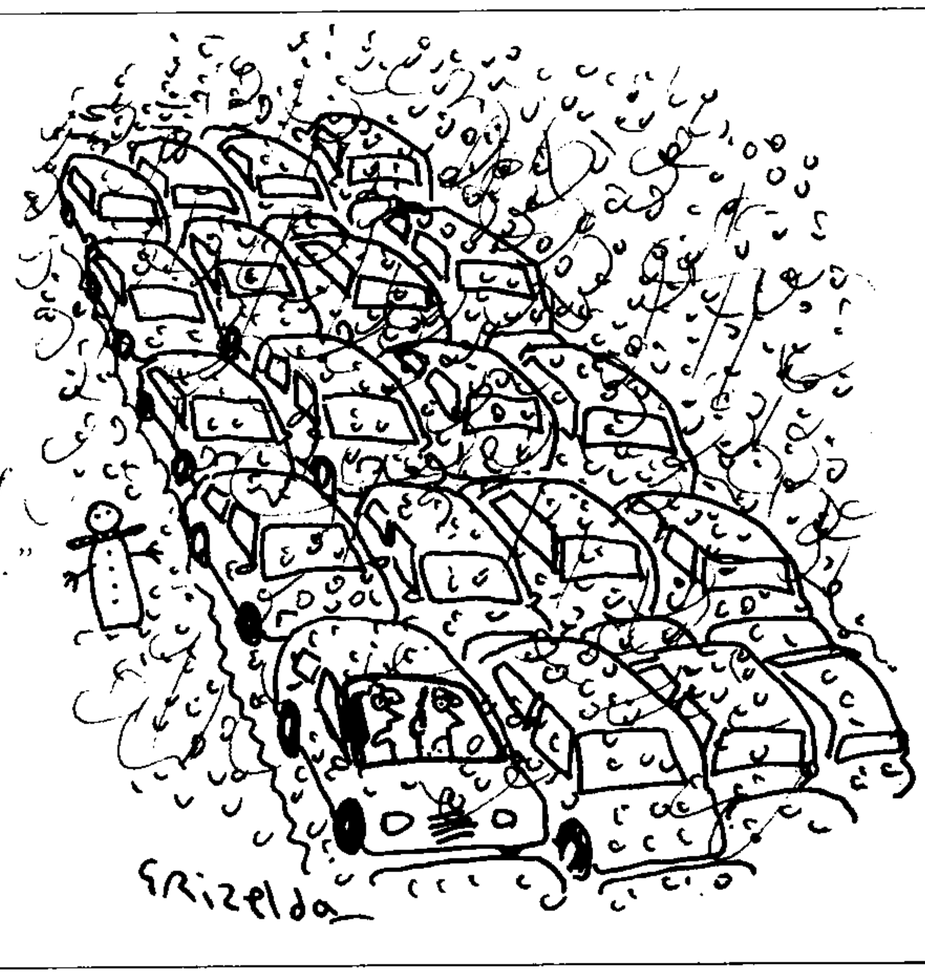
Michael Jackson interviews **Martin Bashir**

Jackson enters the weird world of the mysterious superstar and genius interviewer to find out what makes Bashir tick.

See "Backo" doing his trademark "Loontalk" as he sits on a sofa, nodding his head and taking off his spectacles.

And, for the first time, "Backo" is finally asked the question to which the whole world wants an answer: **"Why is your nose so brown?"**

Eye Rating: z-z-z-z-z-z



"Oh no! Weapons of mass disruption..."

Letters to the Editor

White Hell

SIR – How can we possibly expect to fight a war in Iraq when we cannot even cope with two inches of snow on the M11? Let us hope it does not snow in Iraq when the troops go in or are we to rely on American gritters to help us win the Olympics for London? If the asylum seekers are to be usefully employed, could they not supply stranded motorists with nourishing soup and warm clothes? Or is that too much to ask for Mr Iain Duncan Smith's so-called Tory Party? Wake up, Ken Livingstone!

Arthur Treadmill
Chorley Wood

SIR – Last week on the day of the great snowfall I set off from my home in Haywards Heath to visit my dentist in Edgware. The train took over 5 hours to reach Three Bridges whereupon it ground to a halt and I was forced to take a replacement bus which made it only as far as the exit to the carpark before breaking down. I then took a minicab which took me onto the M25 where I spent 16 hours in solid traffic before setting off on foot and reaching Tooting Bec late on Saturday evening – only to find that the Northern Line was closed due to the firemen's strike. A London taxi kindly took me to Heathrow for £125 where I caught a Ryanair low budget single to Majorca for £19 where I was able to have a hip replacement operation within two days entirely free of charge. Surely there is a lesson here for Mr Blair? Wake up, Mrs Thatcher!

S.P.W. Barking
The Hotel Splendido, Majorca

SIR – Re the recent blizzards, it is extraordinary that when you consider the ample warning of the weather conditions given by the Meteorological Office at Bracknell, I *still* drove my car on the M11 and am *still* here. The question must surely be asked, "Why?" Wake up, myself!

Colin Daft
By text message

Letter of the Week

SIR – When the snow fell last week what happened to good old-fashioned British grit?

Mike Giggler
Via e-mail.

LET'S PARLEZ FRANGLAIS Avec Jacques Chirac

Monsieur Blair *(for it is lui)*: Bonjour, Jacques. Comment allez-vous?

Monsieur Chirac: Ecoutez-moi, dum-dum! Pourquoi are you putting votre nez dans la derrière de Monsieur Dubya?

Monsieur Blair: I have jamais been so insulted dans all ma vie!

Monsieur Chirac: Bon riddance, Rosbif!

Monsieur Blair *(to les cameras)*: Monsieur Chirac and I had a frank and fruitful exchange of views.

Monsieur Chirac: Ha ha ha.

(Reuters)

OUTRAGE OVER KISSING VICAR

by Our Church Staff **Pew Heffner**

A CHURCH of England vicar who was caught kissing a woman in a carpark was today called upon to resign.

Said a spokesman for the diocese, "The vicar has disgraced himself and the church. We do not need these open acts of heterosexual behaviour in a modern church. All of our ministers know perfectly well that they are only allowed to kiss other men in the privacy of the vicarage toilet."

Dr Rowan Atkinson is 57.

THE EYE'S TOP COLUMNISTS TELL IT LIKE IT IS

WAR SPECIAL

Why We Must Stand up to the Most Evil Man in The World

by The World's Most Respected Military Historian **Sir John Keen**

MAKE no mistake. We have been here before. Once again mankind is threatened by a megalomaniac dictator with a moustache bent upon world domination.

And again we hear the familiar siren voices of appeasement (ie Tony Benn) telling us we mustn't upset him.

Have we learned nothing from the past? As the world's most respected military historian, I can tell you that Saddam is just like Hitler. Except worse. And if we allow his Third Reich to continue its relentless march across the globe, future generations will curse us for our lily-livered folly.

That is, if there are any future generations to survive Saddam Hitler's Nazi blitzkrieg.

© Daily Telegraph

Why We Must Stand up to the Most Evil Man in The World

by The World's Most Respected War Reporter **John Bilger**

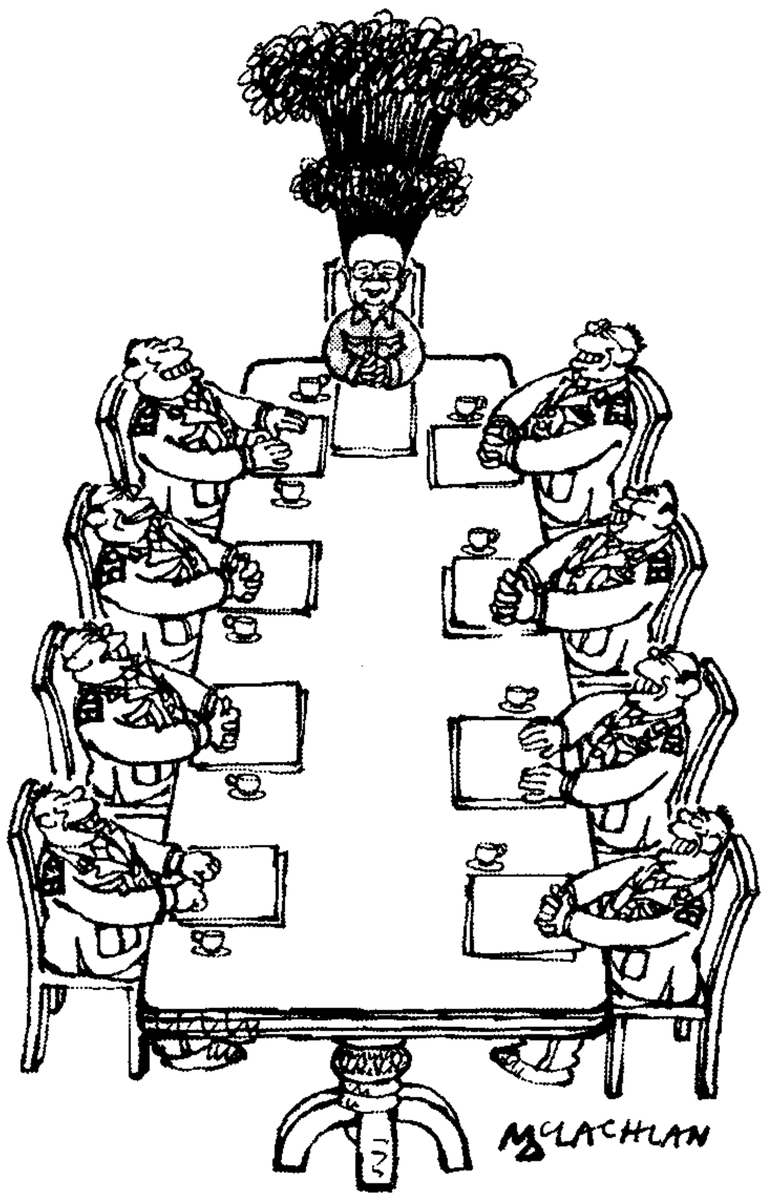
MAKE no mistake. We have been here before. Once again mankind is threatened by a megalomaniac dictator without a moustache bent upon world domination.

And again we hear the familiar siren voices of appeasement (ie Tony Benn) telling us we mustn't upset him.

Have we learned nothing from the past? As the world's most respected war reporter, I can tell you that Bush is just like Hitler. Except worse. And if we allow his Third Reich to continue its relentless march across the globe, future generations will curse us for our lily-livered folly.

That is, if there are any future generations to survive Adolf Bush's Nazi blitzkrieg.

© Daily Moron



NORTH KOREA'S DEAR LEADER WON GREAT APPROVAL FOR HIS NEW COIFFURE FROM AN ADMIRING MILITARY COUNCIL

Those Israeli Elections In Full

(Cont. from p. 1)

ARMAGEDDON CENTRAL.

Ariel Atak *(Some Likud Hot Party)* 30,816; **General Smitem Buldoza** *(They Don't Likud Up Them Party)* 29,405; **Rabbi Looni Ben Nutkase** *(No Trousers On The Sabbath Party)* 13,402; **Barbara Amiel** *(Daily Tel Aviv Party)* 2,307; **Softi Ben Neissman** *(Labour Let's Be Kind To Palestinians Alliance)* 0.

BETHLEHEM EAST.

No change.

Election cancelled due to absence of Electorate. *(That's enough elections. Ed.)*

SAY 'NO' TO THE MIRROR

MILLIONS of people have joined the Eye's campaign and signed the anti-Mirror petition. Letters, faxes and text messages have been flooding into our offices demanding that Piers Moron stops trying to use the anti-war movement as an excuse to sell his paper.

Generals, diplomats, church leaders, TV celebrities and soap stars have all been harassed by the Mirror in their desperate attempts to stop losing the circulation war.

Now **you** can **stop** them.
Cut out and send this coupon now.

Mr Moron, I hereby register my opposition to the stance in your paper which is not justified by any evidence of previous interest in political journalism or moral and intellectual debate.

NAME.....

.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

BLAIR REVEALS NEXT TARGET IN WAR ON TERROR

The Daily Kyliegraph

Britain's biggest-selling quality daily — Friday, February 7, 2003

Exclusive – Kylie shows us her knickers

by Editor **Charles Phwoar**

TODAY the Daily Telegraph is proud and privileged to present to its readers some really hot pix of Kylie's bum in some great stretch-knickers.

And there's more for you lingerie lovers!! Suspender belts, stockings, bras – the lot!

Corrrr!!

On Other Pages
Why Britain lacks any moral direction. First in a series of interviews by **Grayman Turner** with leading Catholic theologians.

© *The Kylie Telegraph*

TOMORROW
The Daily Tatugraph – Teen Lesbian Issue!

EXCLUSIVE TO THE EYE

Schott'sOriginalTelegraphMiscellany

A gallimaufry of vital irrelevance and uncommon knowledge compiled by **Phil Space** *(Surely 'Ben Schott'? Ed.)*

NOTABLE JOHNSONS

Boris
Boris's sister, Rachel
Boris's dad, Frank

MOST POPULAR ALMA MATER

Eton
Eton
Eton

CARTOONISTS WITH HONOURS

Nick Garland OBE
Matt OBE
Peattie and Taylor MBE

NAMES OF TOM KEMP'S CHILDREN

Tom
Clovis
Peregrine
Rumpelstiltskin

FAMOUS COLUMNISTS WITH 2 INITIALS

A.N. Wilson
W.F. Deedes
D.J. Taylor
The Late T.E. Utley

WRITERS' REAL AGES

Adam Nicholson 78 (24)
Sarah Sands 11 (93)
Alexander Chancellor 103 (74)
James Le Fanu 94 (94)
Bill Deedes 22 (197)

LONGEST BEARDS

Christopher Howse 34.3cms
Mark Steyn 2.2cms
Joshua Rozenbeard 94cms

MOST DIFFICULT CROSSWORD CLUE

"Boring Editor found when heir to the throne meets Othello with ecstasy" (7,5)
(That's enough Schott's Miscellany)

Bill Deedes Writes

When I saw the photos of our fine, clean-shaven young servicemen kissing their sweethearts goodbye as they embarked for the Gulf, my thoughts inevitably went back to the similar scenes I witnessed at the outbreak of another war.

As a young reporter, I was moved by the sound of the bands playing, the flags flying, the girls in hats handing out white feathers to anyone not in uniform.

And there, striding manfully through the crowd to board the troopship, was the Duke of Wellington himself. *(Or was it Henry V? Please check.)*

Some things never change, this column being a prime example (and Nelson's Column another).

EVERYONE I know is worried about the new plague of our time – magpies. What is to be done about them? Nobody knows. Wasn't it Lord Nelson who suggested that *(cont'd 1494)*.

POETRY CORNER

In Memoriam Norman Panama, Hollywood scriptwriter

So. Farewell
Then Norman
Panama.

You wrote many
Unforgettable scripts
Such as *White Christmas*.

But best of all was
The Court Jester,
Starring Danny
Kaye.

The vessel with the pestle
Has the pellet with the poison
But the chalice from the palace
Has the brew that is true.

Yes. But later we found out
That the chalice from the palace
Was broken.
And the pellet with the poison
Was now in
The flagon with the dragon.

Or it might have been
The other way round.

Either way it was pure
Poetry.

E. J. "The Doge" Thribb
('The Poet in the Paper with the Pen that is True')

Notes & Queries

QUESTION: Who invented the clothes peg?

☐ CONTRARY to the ludicrous and long-discredited theory put forward by the Rev. Titchmarsh, the clothes peg was never used in Chinese religious ceremonies during the Pong dynasty (404-312 BC). The first authenticated record of the clothes peg dates back only to the second half of the 17th century, when this useful device was invented by the German mathematician Klaus von Pegg. Pegg observed that washing hung over rope 'lines' in the courtyard of his lodging house in Mannheim was often caught by gusts of wind and blown into the nearby River Schmaltz. In his efforts to make the washing more secure, Herr Pegg first attempted to fasten it to the line with a glue based on goose fat and rye flour (goseglaü). But this had the disadvantage that the clothes had to be rewashed to remove the glue. Eventually, after many further experiments over a period of 30 years, Herr Pegg came up with the device which has taken his name. He originally constructed these from branches of a hidden tree cut from the churchyard of the famous Jakobskirke. Readers wishing to know more should consult my own work "The Father Of The Modern Clothes Peg", published by the Rusbridger Press in 1973.
J. Pegg (Dr), Winnipeg, Ontario.

Question: What is the origin of the popular surname 'Stothard'?

☐ THE name derives from Anglo-Saxon, being a corruption of the original word "Stoat-herd". It was customary in the early mediaeval period to keep flocks of stoats which were much prized for their skill in locating wild mandrakes, which were a delicacy when roasted with apples. The person assigned to guard the stoats was usually a simple fellow who could be relied upon to do whatever his master told him. The stoatherd was often jokingly referred to as "Sir Stoatherd", as in Shakespeare's Midsummer's Night Dream (III, ii):

Fool: *Why, Sir Stoatherd, what nonsense thou hast writ in thy newspaper.*

Yours truly, Professor Anwar Radjuit, University of Bangalore.

Answers, please, to the following: a) Why do bees hum? b) Can fish see in colour? c) Why hasn't Taki been sacked from the Spectator?

DEAR ZOE, My heart goes out to you because I know what you are going through. Like so many high-achieving, beautiful, talented women in the media spotlight, you find yourself saddled with a useless partner and a small child.

And whilst you were trying to juggle devoted motherhood and a challenging career, he was slumped in front of the telly after a day looking after little Woody, probably watching White-Water Snooker from Zimbabwe presented by Jamie Theakston and Clive Anderson (Granada Extreme Sports Discovery Plus 3).

No wonder you had to move on, relationship-wise, and find yourself again by having an affair with another DJ. (Pity about the straggly beard and the tombstone teeth, but I suppose you *are* on the rebound!!)

"Will you be my first wife?"

We all know that you worked hard at your marriage for several weeks, but in the end you had no choice but to call it a day and walk away.

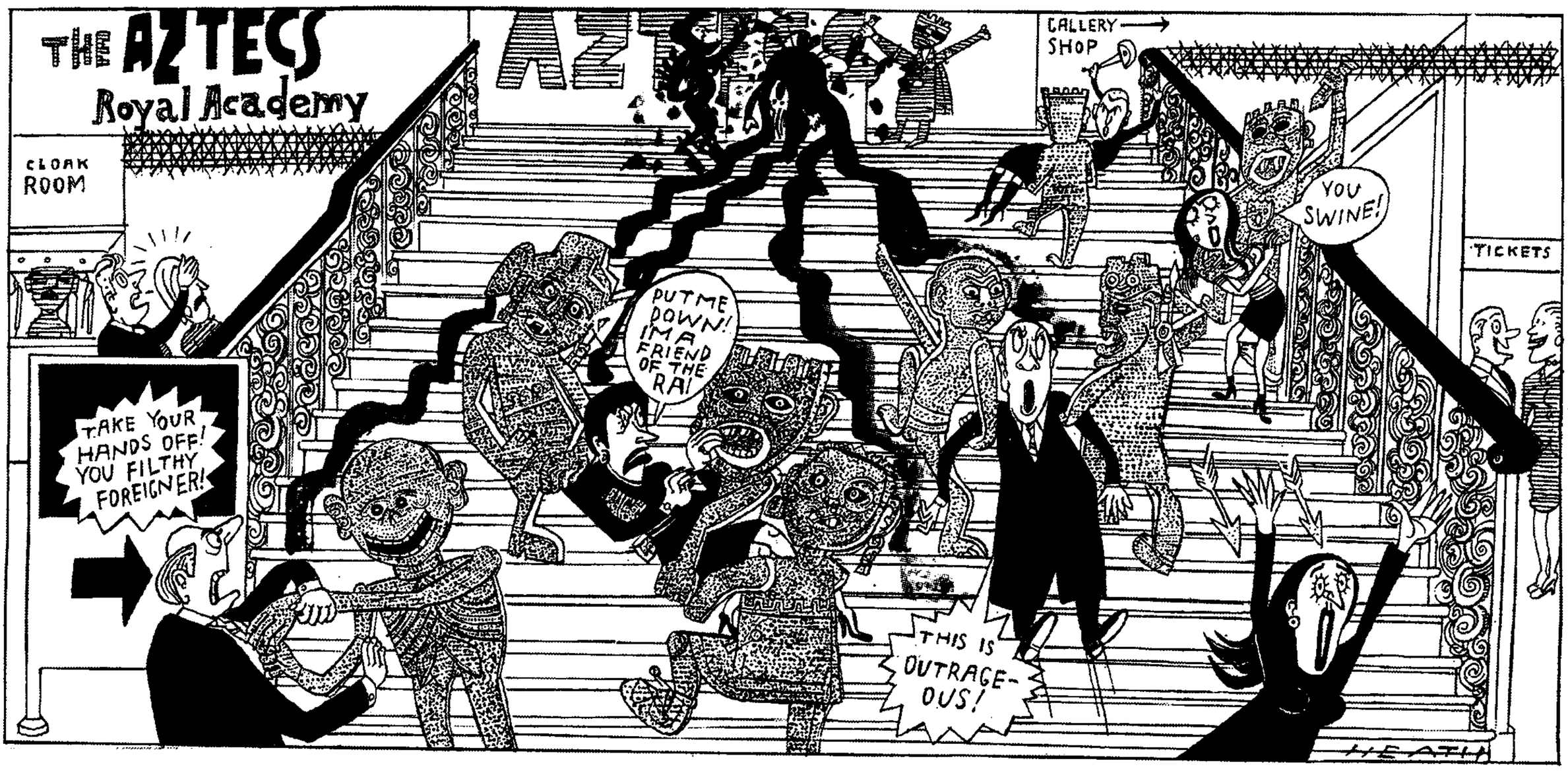
Now, Zoe, you have to think about the most important person in all this. The person who it will affect the most. The person who could end up emotionally scarred by the whole mess: yourself.

You've been incredibly brave, Zoe – you're a role model for all of us. So watch out, Useless Simon, I hope you are reading this, because you're next.

NEXT WEEK: Polly's Nightmare Holiday Flight From Hell. Polly is served warm champagne in Business Class on the way back from Johannesburg and the resulting argument wakes up toddler Charlie who doesn't sleep for the whole *flight. Read Polly's incredible account of a typical working mother's everyday ordeal.*

© Polly Filler.

(Note to Editor: If Zoe and Fatboy looks old hat, change names to "Sadie" and "Jude". It's more or less the same, isn't it? P.F.)



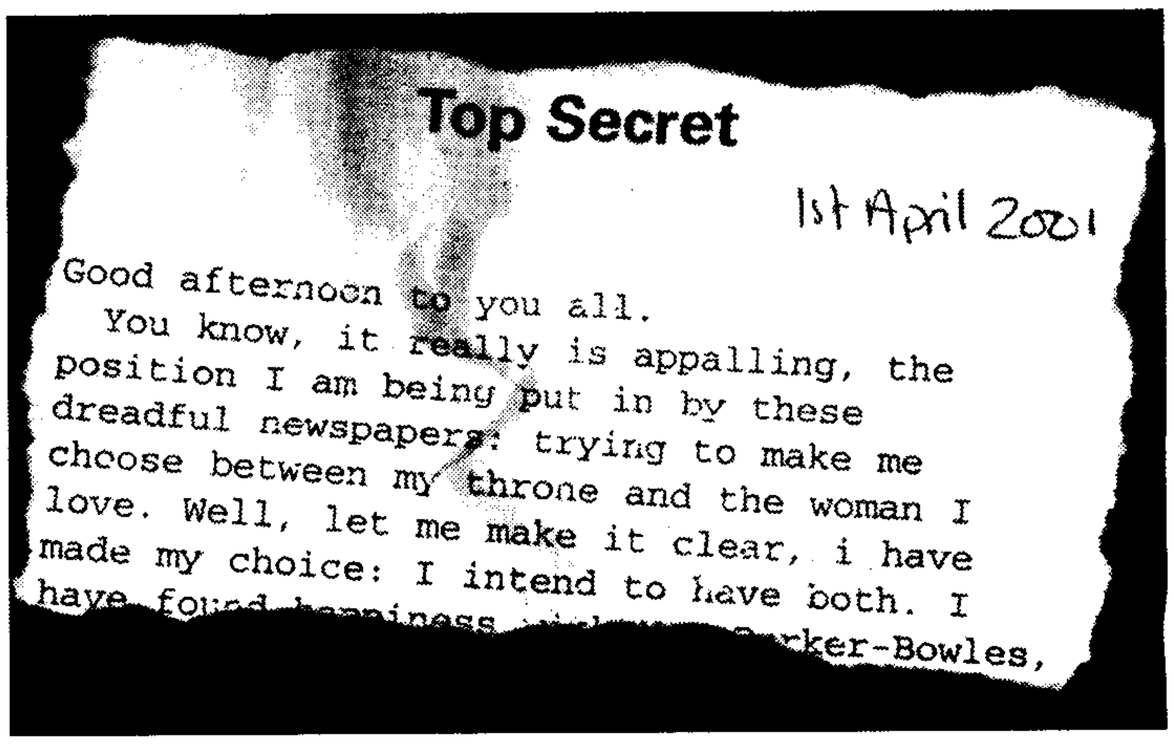
THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KING

Draft Non-Abdication Speech Revealed

By Our Royal Correspondent LADY ANTONIA HOLDEN

PAPERS revealed under the 30-minute rule contain shock new revelations about the most controversial royal love affair of modern times – that betwen the Prince of Wales and a good-time divorcee, Mrs Camilla Parker-Simpson.

The newly released documents include the draft text of the historic non-abdication speech which Prince Charles planned to deliver to "the Empire", until a last-minute intervention by the prime minister of the day, Mr Stanley Blair, forced the future King of England to abandon it.


Top Secret

1st April 2001

Good afternoon to you all.
You know, it really is appalling, the position I am being put in by these dreadful newspapers: trying to make me choose between my throne and the woman I love. Well, let me make it clear, i have made my choice: I intend to have both. I have found happiness with Mrs Parker-Bowles,

That speech in full

Good afternoon to you all.

You know, it really is appalling, the position I am being put in by these dreadful newspapers, trying to make me choose between my throne and the woman I love. Well, let me make it clear, I have made my choice: I intend to have both. I have found happiness with Mrs Parker-Bowles, and I believe that, with her, I could enjoy the kind of stable relationship which marriage can bring. Unless, of course, you get married to the wrong person, in which case it can be rather ghastly – having to listen to awful pop music and not having one's toast properly made. I never said I wanted Camilla to be Queen. I only wanted to make legitimate the kind of informal sleeping arrangements which in recent years have become increasingly fashionable even among people like one's gardeners, dwelling, as they do, in their humble cottages, watching *East-Enders* and eating nourishing platefuls of bread and dripping.

I know that many of you think I should abdicate. But that would be to shrink from the duty to which I have been called. (Although, quite honestly, sometimes I wonder why I bother.) I want you to know that I have every intention of being King, when my elderly mother finally pops her clogs. (No one ever writes articles in the Sunday Times suggesting that *she* should abdicate, do they?) But the last thing I'm going to do is to end up as a sad and lonely old man, like my Great-Uncle Edward. That really would be appalling.

God save the King.
CHARLES

SHOCKING TRAGEDY INQUIRY FINDS TRAGEDY 'SHOCKING'

By Our Shocking Tragedy Correspondent **Hans Wringing**

THE INQUIRY into the shocking tragedy has concluded that something must be done. The conclusions will result in a dramatic overhaul of shocking tragedies, with the aim of ensuring that they never happen again.

The chairman of the enquiry, Lord Whyo'why, said of the shocking tragedy, "This must never happen again. Something must be done."

The inquiry recommended that:

- **This must never happen again.**
- **Something must be done.**
- **The government should appoint a Shocking Tragedy Commissioner, Ombudsman, or Czar (though preferably all three).**
- **The government should set up a new National Shocking Tragedy Agency.**
- **This must never happen again.**

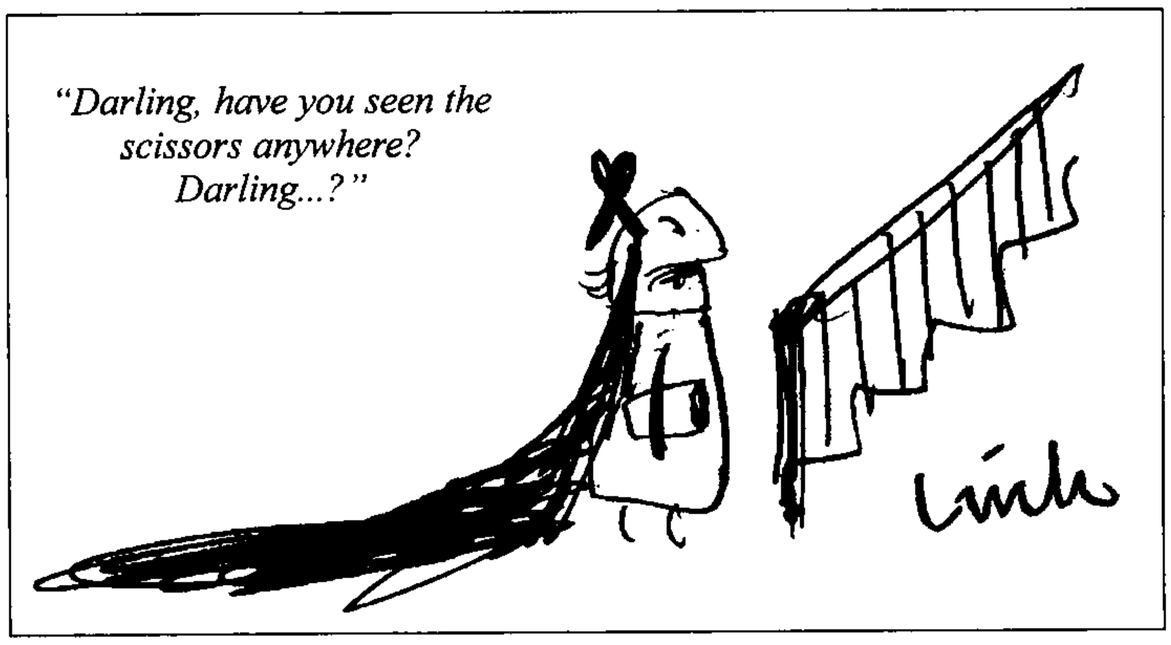
The enquiry drew attention to the fact that there were too many agencies, and that communication between the agencies was poor. It is hoped that the creation of a brand new agency, the National Shocking Tragedy Agency, will help to rectify the problem of too many agencies. The role of the Shocking Tragedy Commissioner will be to facilitate improved communication between the Shocking Tragedy Ombudsman and the Shocking Tragedy Czar.

That Strategic Rail Authority 10-year Transport Strategy In Full

1 Announce modernisation of the East Coast mainline, expansion of the Thameslink through London and key schemes to increase rolling stock, reduce overcrowding and improve stations and performance.

2 Cancel modernisation of the East Coast mainline, expansion of the Thameslink through London and key schemes to increase rolling stock, reduce overcrowding and improve stations and performance.

3 Er, that's it...



NEW PUBLIC TOILET LAW REFORM

by Our Legal Affairs Staff **W.C. 'Dirty' Deedes**

FROM tomorrow the act of going to the toilet in a public lavatory will be against the law.

Hilary Benny Hill

The government has announced a wide-ranging review of legislation aimed at "cleaning up" public behaviour in order to ensure that innocent people having sex in public conveniences will no longer have to be embarrassed by a minority of irresponsible individuals who seek to use the facilities in order to go to the toilet.

Said a spokesman, "As war looms and the economy crashes, the government has rightly decided to crack down on this filthy habit of bowel evacuation in places where ordinary cottaging homosexuals are trying to go about their business."

The Homosexual Office

He continued, "If members of the public wish to relieve themselves, they should obviously go in the privacy of their own gardens or possibly in their cars, but not, of course, with the curtains open."

IN THE COURTS

Cleese v. The Evening Standard Day 94

Before Mr Justice Cocklecarrot

Sir Ephraim Hugefee Q.C. *(for the plaintiff Mr John Cleese)*: When my client read the report in the Evening Standard alleging that he had lost his sense of humour, he flew into a tantrum and shouted, "I do not see anything funny about that. I shall sue!"

(The court was told that the Evening Standard had apologised for what Mr Cleese had claimed was "the most outrageous slur ever perpetrated on a distinguished public servant in the history of libel". The newspaper had also offered the sum of £10,000 as compensation for his "hurt feelings". Mr Cleese himself then gave evidence via a special video link from Los Angeles.)

Mr Cleese: Hallo there, Your Honour. I'm sorry I can't be with you all on this special day, but I am very famous and rich and can't be bothered to come back to England just for some silly court case.

Mr Justice Cocklecarrot: I am indebted to you, Mr Cleese, as indeed is the whole world, for your wonderful contribution to comedy. My wife in particular especially enjoyed your celebrated Basil Python...

Cleese: It's 'Fawlty', My Lord.

Judge: Then perhaps the usher would be good enough to adjust the set!

(Sycophantic laughter from assembled QCs)

Hugefee: Sir Jonathan, will you tell the court what your feelings were when you read this vile calumny upon your person in Miss Waddilove's newspaper?

Cleese: My first feeling was one of shock and outrage that such a thing could be written and published about someone as important as myself. But this gave way to feelings of acute depression, and I ended in genuine fear for my life.

(The witness here broke down in tears.)

Cocklecarrot: Perhaps you would like a brief adjournment to recover by taking a swim in that agreeable pool I see behind you.

Cleese: I am indebted to you, Your Lordship.

Cocklecarrot: No, as I said before, Mr Cleese, it is we who are indebted to you, for The Full Monty Python and that wonderful series you did about the Germans during the war.

Cleese: It is not the money that bothers me, Your Honour. It is the fact that they didn't offer me enough of it!

Cocklecarrot: That is highly amusing and, I would suggest, prima facie evidence that you have not, as the defendants alleged, lost your sense of humour!

(QCs erupt into paroxysms of hysterical mirth at judicial wit. The judge reserved judgement for several weeks to give him time to retire to the Garrick Club for luncheon.)

UNDERGROUND DISASTER SHOCK

by Our Transport Staff **Phil Paper**

AS THE death toll on the Underground rose to a horrifying zero, editors and broadcasters around the country were asking themselves, "How could it have happened?"

After all the space dedicated to the story and all the journalists conveniently working in the capital, how had it gone so wrong?

Here is the timetable of terror.

10.25 Train derailed.

10.26 Hysteria grips newsrooms at story not connected to Iraq.

10.33 News of death toll breaks.

10.34 Horror hits hacks as reality of lack of tragedy sets in. *(That's enough Underground Tragedy. Ed.)*

THE SUN SAYS

THERE can be no question that Kevin Keegan was wrong to have called the people of Liverpool car thieves. Totally wrong!

Everyone knows that those Scousers would be far too busy urinating on dead people and stealing their wallets after a football stadium tragedy to steal our cars.

GET IT RIGHT KEVIN!!!

Late News

PRISONER GUILTY SHOCK

THE HOME Office admitted it was bewildered yesterday after it was revealed that a prisoner serving a term for murder had actually committed the crime.

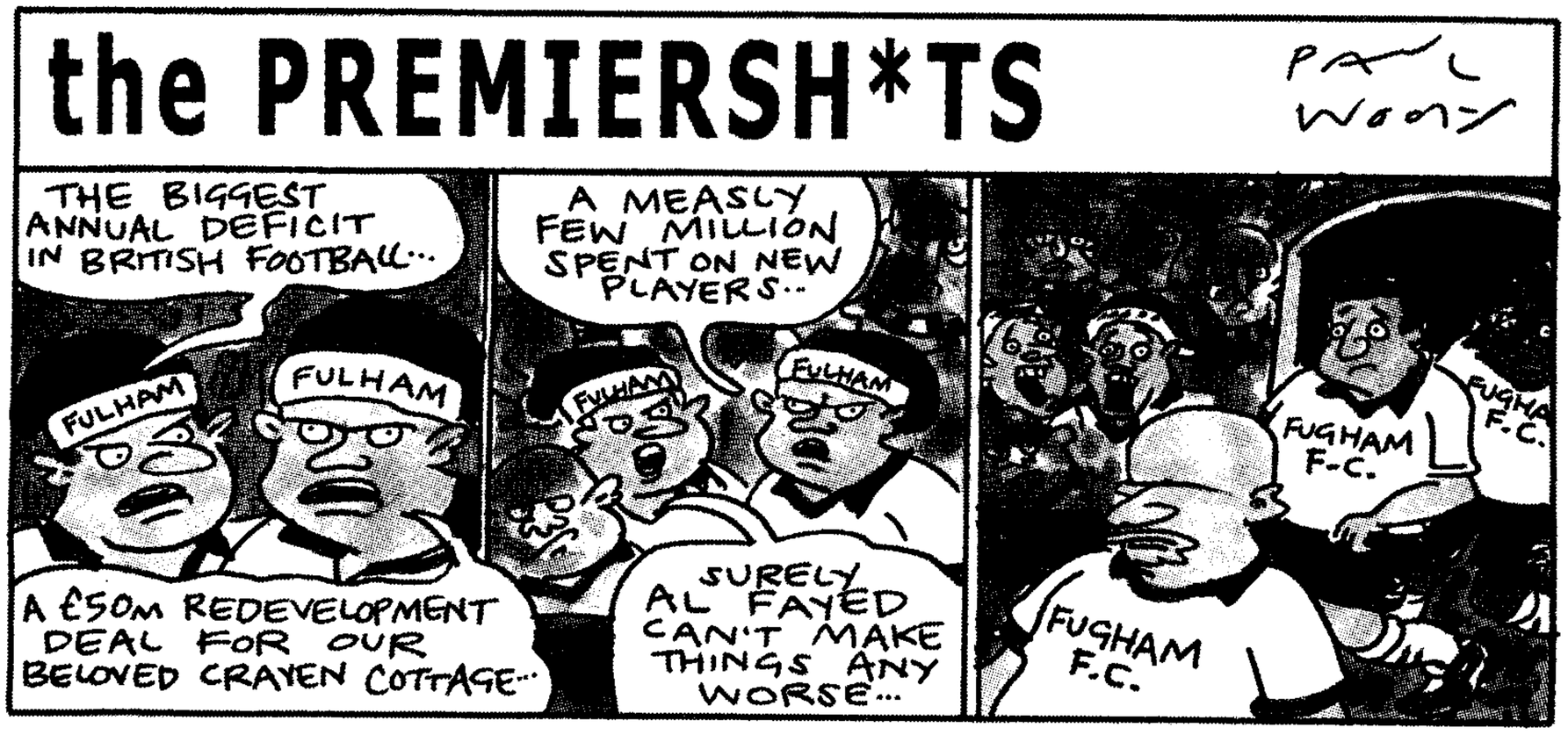
"We find it hard to believe but apparently he didn't suffer a miscarriage of justice due to incompetent pathologists or by being fitted up by corrupt police officers," said an astonished Home Office official. "We have already begun an inquiry to see just where everything went right and what steps came to be taken to avoid this in the future."

PLUCKY YANKS SWEEP THE BOARD

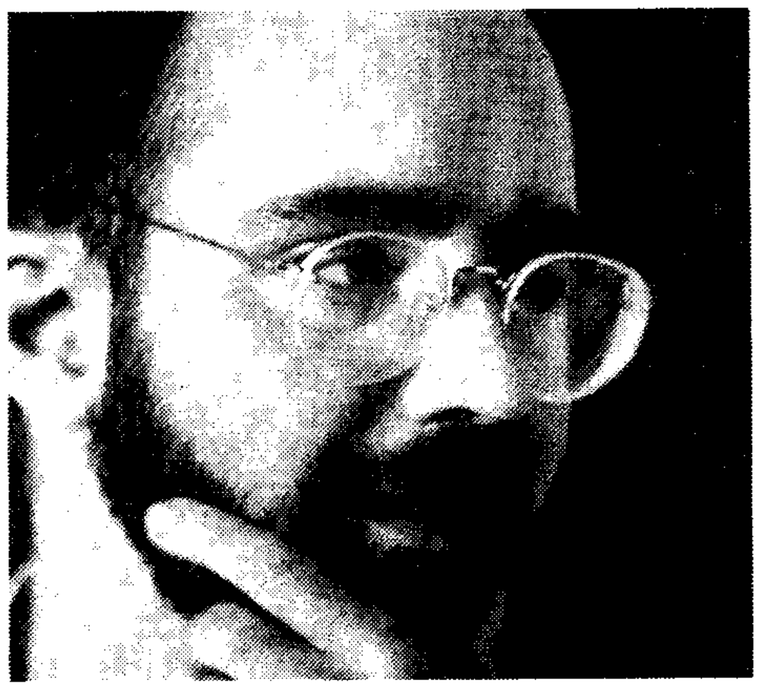
THIS year's BAFTA nominations are dominated by plucky Hollywood film makers who look determined to spoil the party for British movie giants.

A Hollywood spokesman said: "We feel incredibly humbled to be amongst such exalted company, and to be honoured by the British Academy is indeed truly wonderful – let's hope we can give them a jolly good run for their money."

(Rotters)



DIARY



NICHOLSON BAKER

Good morning, it's 4:44 a.m., and just now I did something entirely new while the coffee was poopling and snivelling into its home-brewed coffeehood. This is what I did: I picked my nose with the middle digit of my left hand instead of following my usual convention of employing the forefinger of my right hand.

You get to know a nose by picking it. You also get to know a finger by covering it with a nose, or at any rate half a nose, as it is virtually impossible to cover a single finger with both nostrils. So my experiment has offered me an informative new perspective not only on my nose but also on the middle digit of my left hand, a finger that I had, up to that point, neglected.

Ah, what a keen pleasure it is to remove a stubborn bogy from one's nasal cavity. It puts you in touch with the great pioneers as they prospected for gold. I remember the day our dog, Fido, dug up a bone from that area of the garden adjacent to, though not touching, the chicken shed three yards and six and a half inches from the sycamore tree. At the time, I saw no reason to compare that bone to a bogy. It was substantially larger, for a start, and far more robust. On reflection, there is little a bone has in common with a bogy. A human skeleton composed only of bogy would be too floppy for anything but sitting down, and I like to be active.

Good morning, it's 5:15 a.m., and I have just scratched my right elbow as it was itching a bit. I sit at my desk, wondering what to write. I reflect that there is no reason at all not to start with my usual salute. So I write, Good morning, it's 5.15 a.m.

What next? I am in no mind to leave it there.

Fortuitously, I feel an itch on my right elbow. I scratch it. This gives me something potentially interesting to record, so I decide to insert the additional information that I have just scratched my right elbow as it was itching a bit.

A vista opens. I can now write about my decision to write about the fact that I scratched my right elbow, together with the reasons behind this impulsive action. So I put on record that a fresh vista has opened out, as I am now able to write about my decision to write about the fact that I scratched my right elbow, and the reasons behind that impulsive action.

Good morning, it's 5:01 a.m., and the lace on my right shoe has come undone. It is much easier to walk without hindrance if both shoes are laced up. If it were not, those in the shoe industry would abandon all the machinery and labour costs involved in the manufacture of laces, saving themselves many millions of dollars.

As a boy, I had the third largest collection of laces in my neighbourhood. Other people collected a variety of laces, but mine were all the same: 259 medium-size flat black laces neatly glued to four separate pieces of cardboard, with the date of each individual purchase neatly penned with a partly-chewed red Bic biro underneath. This was my principal hobby for several years, before I was sidetracked into cataloguing my burgeoning earwax collection.

I have now tied the shoelace. It is moderately tight, seven and a half on a scale of one to ten, and should provide me with at least 2341 yards of reasonably energetic walking before I am obliged to lean over and tie it up once more. It is my contention that the simple need to tie a shoelace has shaped the heart of human endeavour. If JFK had failed to tie his shoelace tight before he set out on his fateful drive through Dallas, then at the crucial moment he might have leant over to deal with his lace, and the bullet would have whistled, bullet-like, over his head.

The fire is going well now. Fires go out if they are not fed. No fire lasts forever. No urination lasts forever, either. At 4:58 a.m., I peed for twenty nine seconds exactly. It was a lengthy pee, but it did not last forever. Nothing lasts forever. It sometimes just seems like it does.

Good morning, it's 5:23 a.m., and the first match I removed from the box broke, so I was forced to strike another. It looked almost exactly the same as the first. They were like identical twins, but small and match-shaped and with none of the attributes of human beings, unless you count heads.

At twilight yesterday I went on a walk in the woods. It was an uneventful walk. I couldn't see the wood for the trees. I noted down the number of individual trees I saw, up to the nearest five. The number was 827, though it is possible I counted anything up to thirty per cent of them twice over.

Just now I scrumpled up a piece of newspaper and stuffed it into the fire. I didn't feel sorry for it as I watched it burn. It was only a piece of newspaper, after all. But as it caught fire I noticed on the lower left hand corner it carried an advertisement for headache pills. What a pleasure it is to have your headache removed by a headache pill. Not enough attention has been given to the design of the headache pill. In the dresser in the kitchen, third drawer down on the left, I keep a collection of seven hundred and twenty three headache pills, carefully dated and numbered. Some are circular whilst others – something over half – are oval. I prefer the oval pills, attracted by their essential *ovality*.

Good morning, it's 4:59 a.m. and I have just dipped my right hand into the space between my trousers and my skin. I am now engaged in scratching my ass.

It occurs to me I haven't described my ass in any detail: Using my right hand I carry out an exploratory assessment with a view to a full description tomorrow. I am roughly two-thirds through my survey when I slip, and my right arm disappears up the cavity between my cheeks.

Temporarily disconcerted, I reach in with my other arm in an attempt to wheedle it out. But that arm also slooshes up the aperture and disappears inside. I have no wish to remain armless, so with some difficulty I lean right over and push my head right in to take a look around. To my surprise, my torso slips in after it, and my legs scurry behind. It occurs to me that I am quite possibly the first writer in the world who has disappeared up his own ass. It is one of the supreme joys of life. I determine there and then to do it more often.

As told to
CRAIG BROWN

Celeb

LIGGER

SO PIXIE FROU FROU'S JUST SPLIT FROM HER FIRST BOYFRIEND?
YEAH. BIG DRAMAS I'M AFRAID..
THEY'D BEEN AN ITEM FOR QUITE A FEW MONTHS BUT IT'S ALL OVER NOW...
HOW HAS SHE TAKEN IT?
SHE'S REALLY UPSET ABOUT THE WAY HE'S TREATED HER. SHE SAYS SHE WAS "JUST ANOTHER GIRL" TO HIM...
I MEAN, HE HASN'T EVEN SOLD THE STORY TO THE TABLOIDS...
WHAT A HEARTLESS BASTARD!

Literary Review

Green with ennui

Spellbound
Jane Green
(Penguin/Michael Joseph, £10)

WHATEVER happened to that bright-eyed yet opportunist branch of light fiction known as "chick-lit"? Well, to judge from Alex Hamilton's list of 2002's paperback fast-sellers, reproduced in last month's *Bookseller*, the genre has virtually ceased to exist. Wendy Holden, Sophie Kinsella and co have graduated to the far more respectable-sounding category of "romance". Ms Green here, the high-priestess of the form, her new one crashing on to the hardback best-seller chart at number one, now gets filed under something called "Mum lit".

Mum lit? Rest assured, girls, that tube-ride into work will still be tolerable, for chick-lit never went away. It simply reinvented itself in line with the (presumed) life-patterns of its readers. First there were shags in flats, Mr Right versus Mr Wrong and why won't the bastard commit. Then came the faltering trudge to the altar, with infant footsteps pattering sturdily in the rear – Jane's last mega-seller was called *Babyville*. Now, here in the chill dawn of a new century, it transpires that we're in our mid-30s, grown deeply reflective and mature, and that life is turning into a very serious business indeed.

Not that there isn't still bags of space for that chick-lit staple, the girlie chat. Those girlie chats, *how* they twitter on! Have you...? Did he...? How many times...? Gucci slingbacks...? Alice the svelte female lead of *Spellbound* has a chum called Emily, known since childhood, and boy do they chunter whimsically on. Mostly they chunter about randy Joe, Alice's husband.

The plot of *Spellbound* can be easily summarised. Permanently aroused alpha-male marries mimsy girl and sets about converting her into the type of babe he really likes (designer gear, blonde highlights, vacant smile etc). He sleeps around while wifey incubates silent doubts. Then it all gets a bit out of hand. Discovered rogering a lissom colleague on the boardroom table (our man is, of course, a high-powered banker) he gets shipped out to Manhattan. Stateside, wifey comes mysteriously into her own. Installed in a Connecticut country cottage, she finds herself spookily reenacting the plot of a forgotten novel written by the shack's former owner, in which a woman is forced to choose between bit on the side and errant husband, and ends up choosing... well, don't let me spoil it for you, except that here in the present there's a bit of a twist and poor old Emily, who had thought herself so happy with downbeat Harry, gets irretrievably caught up in the crossfire. As for Alice, well, she rediscovers her true self before it's too late.

A dinky preface helpfully spells out much of the book's future course in giant capitals. When not marching across the page like clockwork toys, the characters' occasional bouts of jerky vitality are generally sandbagged by Ms G's tendency to tell the reader everything about them upfront. Josie, for example, the frosty squeeze whose embrace sends Joe to New York (and turns up again to wreak further havoc) rates a whole dogged page on her habits and temperament ("For Josie doesn't have much of a life apart from work" etc) sufficient to destroy any interest the reader might have in her future conduct.

As ever in this kind of book, the action eventually resolves itself into a thinly-disguised style-guide. Dresses by "Ralph", shoes by Jimmy Choo. In after-dark London one hangs out at Hush, Home House or Club K (I assume these places exist, but must confess to never having heard of them). In the Big Apple it's highlights at Frederic Fekkai followed by retail therapy at Bergdorf Goodman, lunch at Jean-George or Le Cirque 2000 and doubtless a whole lot more girlie chat.

The truly depressing thing about this exercise – and Ms G, it should be said, is a vastly more amiable writer than some of her younger contemporaries – is the glimpse afforded of its long-term future. Forty years on, you fear, Jane and her kind will still be at work, their characters deep into their gnarled 70s but still avid to witter mercilessly on about the things that really matter. "Don't tell me, Em. Was that a Calvin Klein wheelchair I saw you in the other day?" "Hey, guess what? Jamie just bought me an ivory zimmerframe." "Gosh, Angela, have you really had sex this decade?" And so on. Don't say I didn't warn you.

BOOKS & BOOKMEN

■ LUDICROUS American agent Andrew "The Jackal" Wylie was in London last week, trying to persuade publishers to buy five children's stories co-written by Madonna and Guy Ritchie, the eminent husband-and-wife authors beside whom Claire Tomalin and Michael Frayn look like mere hacks.

Madonna is keen to stress that she's far more serious than, say, the Duchess of York. "You know, I read a lot of books to my kids and I realised how empty they all are," she said on American TV recently. "They're not really about anything. They don't have any moral messages and they're mostly about, 'If you're a beautiful princess, then a prince will come and marry you and you'll live happily ever after'. And I don't understand what kind of lesson that's going to teach my daughter, except to be obsessed about the way she looks." Unlike her mother, of course.

So what moral messages can we expect from The Tales of Madge'n'Guy? Well, there's a lot about "how destructive gossip is", but on a brighter note the stories reveal that clouds have silver linings ("everything that happens to you, even if you perceive it as something bad, is – can actually be – a blessing"), and that "the only way to receive is to give. That is the way to receive, by sharing". Fancy! As Madonna explains, these lessons are "really important for kids because one day they're going to be grown-ups".

Alas, self-respecting children's publishers in London weren't exactly rushing to buy this enticing property, not only because it would tarnish the reputation of their children's list but also because the sort of money demanded by Wylie might well provoke some proper authors to defect in protest. Finance directors, too, were none too happy at the thought of earning back a Wylie-sized advance, having noticed that the most recent collaboration between Madonna and Ritchie, the aptly named *Swept Away*, has already become one of the most notorious film-turkeys of all time.

Still, certain male chief executives are so desperate to meet Madonna they are more or less ordering their children's editors to show an interest, so no doubt Wylie will find a buyer eventually.

■ **AS Bookworm has noted before, supplying critical advice (at a price) to wannabe authors is becoming an increasingly popular career choice for has-been ex-publishers and agents.**

Having driven Metro into the ground, Susanne McDadd set herself up as a manuscript doctor, as did former 10 percenter Lisanne Radice. McMadd and the Radish must be spitting feathers, however, when they look at the antics of the Literary Consultancy. A recent *Evening Standard* article on the whole sordid but lucrative business revealed that, in addition to receiving £90 a pop for advising the hapless and hopeless, the Literary Consultancy had just received a £105,000 Arts Council grant.

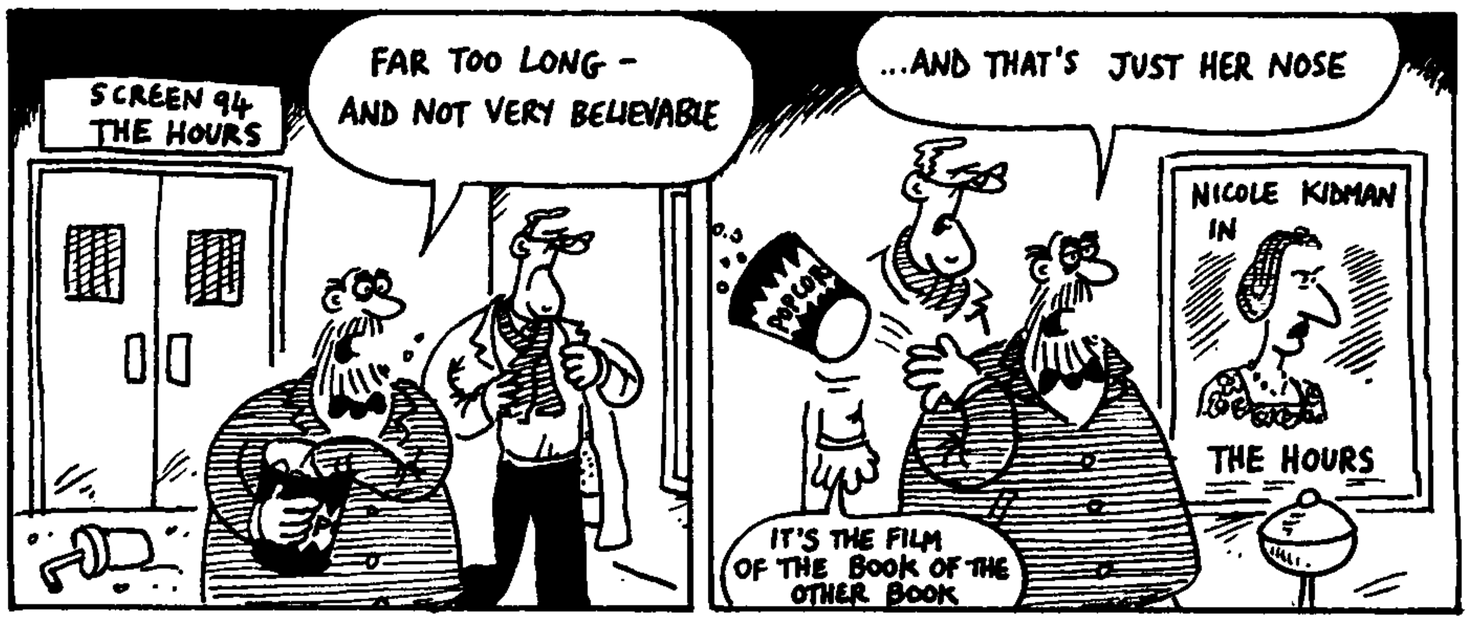
Nice work if you can get it.

■ *HAVING had a scheduled talk at Borders in Oxford broken up by the police last October, Andrew Malcolm, the scourge of OUP* (Eyes passim), *returned in triumph last week to the chain's Charing Cross Road store in London to pick up where he had left off.*

Despite a joint statement from Borders UK MD Philip Downer and his American overlord Vin Altruda that they "sincerely regret and apologise for the cancellation of Andrew Malcolm's event in Oxford, which should have gone ahead," the rescheduled event was, mindful of the PR disaster caused by the Oxford cancellation, clearly offered through gritted teeth.

Several senior Borders staff stood sentry throughout the talk, tapping their watches when Malcolm went over an hour and smiling thin smiles at their guest when they could bear to look at him. Meanwhile, several hulking security goons milled around, failing to be inconspicuous. All this for a talk on a book about philosophy, when the likes of Mad Frankie Fraser would, doubtless, be feted indulgently. Why is everyone so scared of the frankly unmenacing Malcolm?

'Bookworm'


SCREEN 94
THE HOURS
FAR TOO LONG - AND NOT VERY BELIEVABLE
...AND THAT'S JUST HER NOSE
POPCORN
NICOLE KIDMAN IN
THE HOURS
IT'S THE FILM OF THE BOOK OF THE OTHER BOOK

REMAINDERS OF THE DAY

■ *Life in the Jungle* by Michael Heseltine.

Bought by Hodder for around £500,000 and billed as a rip-roaring boys' own story of flak jackets, Westland and leadership challenges.

RRP: £20

Now available in most branches of remainder chain The Works for two quid.

HACKWATCH

History Lesson

CONFUSED by the arguments about war in Iraq? Worry no more: fortunately, many hacks and politicians turn out to be scholarly types who can clarify the issue by offering a historical perspective. And, precisely 70 years after Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany, one particular analogy keeps recurring. As a contribution to public enlightenment, the *Eye* is proud to present a summary of the most recent findings:

10 January: The *Independent*'s new boy-wonder columnist Johann Harri reveals that although he was originally against the war because he hates Dubya, he has now changed his mind. "Of course, forming an alliance with George Bush is an unpleasant experience," he admits, "but we formed an alliance with Stalin to defeat Hitler."

11 January: The argument is taken up in that great forum of academic disputation, Richard and Judy's double-act column in the *Daily Express*. "If Tony Blair could give me one good reason why attacking Iraq will stop terror attacks at home in Britain I might be more inclined to support him," Judy opines. "But any war with Iraq will not necessarily remove Saddam Hussein or Osama Bin Laden." Richard, who clearly knows his history, begs to differ: "I couldn't disagree more with Judy in what she writes here about the twin threats from Al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein… These are mutually exclusive challenges that represent separate battles in a larger war. It's a bit like people thinking during the Second World War that victory in North Africa would mean simultaneous ascendancy in Europe, or that once Hitler was destroyed the Japanese menace would simply evaporate."

18 January: "I'm getting heartily sick of hearing the Second World War being dug up yet again," Robert Fisk complains in the *Independent* – whereupon he proceeds to dig it up once more. "Even though Saddam and Bush deserve each other, Saddam is not Hitler. And Bush is certainly no Churchill." In fact, the US president's strategy "reeks of the worst kind of Chamberlain-like appeasement".

19 January: If Bush is Neville Chamberlain, what does that make his British allies? George Galloway, another leading anti-war campaigner, answers the question in the *Mail on Sunday*, accusing Labour ministers Dr John Reid and Helen Liddell of "mobilising mendacity on a military scale not seen since Dr Goebbels denounced Czech and Polish aggression". In which case, presumably, Saddam Hussein is actually the modern counterpart of President Benes of Czechoslovakia.

25 January: So where does Winston Churchill fit in? According to a *Daily Mirror* editorial, he has decided to sit this one out. "Before the Second World War, as the government appeased Hitler, Churchill's was a lone voice crying out for re-armament and confrontation," it declares. "Yet if he were alive today, he would not be supporting a war on Iraq."

27 January: The *New Statesman* invites Russell Martin, author of a book on Picasso's *Guernica*, to illumine the parallels with the 1930s. "As the United States and Britain prepare to go to war against a madman," he writes, "it is wise to remember another time when much of the world was in crisis, a time when people everywhere also eyed with deep suspicion a dark-moustached dictator who appeared bent on terror, death and dominion." So perhaps either Bush or Blair is Churchill after all? Not so fast: "If Bush does see a correlation, he misses a vital point… Yes, the Nazis were amassing sophisticated new weaponry at a very alarming pace – precisely what Saddam Hussein is accused of doing today – but the decision to go to war before one's enemies do is the thinking of despots, not statesmen."

28 January: John Keegan, defence editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, rallies to the defence of the despot Blair. "Were there not echoes from the past in his words to the Commons a fortnight ago about the perils of not confronting Saddam?… He spoke apparently spontaneously and with evident passion. For a moment he sounded almost Churchillian. The sentiment was certainly Churchillian… Churchill was denouncing appeasement. So, without using the word, was Mr Blair." Meanwhile the man who wrote George Bush's "axis of evil" speech, David Frum, tells the *Grauniad* that he got the idea by reading Franklin Roosevelt's speech delivered after Pearl Harbour: "Roosevelt had exactly the same problem we had. The United States had been attacked by Japan, but the greater threat came from Nazi Germany." In short, as he helpfully explains, Saddam Hussein is Hitler and al Qaeda is Japan (and, one deduces, Osama bin Laden has bagged the role of the Emperor Hirohito). Elsewhere in the *Guardian*, Martin Kettle recalls Neville Chamberlain's parliamentary statement in September 1939 on his final attempts to strike a deal with Hitler, and Leo Amery's cry of "Speak for England, Arthur!" when the acting Labour leader Arthur Greenwood rose to reply. While conceding that "history never exactly repeats itself", Kettle argues that Bush is the new Chamberlain but Blair has missed his chance to play Arthur Greenwood. "The man who currently speaks for England is, of all unlikely people, Jacques Chirac."

*"I said I wanted **botox** injected in my forehead!"*

29 January: All newspapers report George Bush's latest state of the union address, in which he says that just as the US and its allies defeated Hitler, now "once again we are called to defend the safety of our people, and the hopes of all mankind". In the *Daily Telegraph* Patrick Bishop adds several more layers of historical resonance. "Peace in Iraq requires Saddam Hussein to become F. W. de Klerk," he observes. "The transformation will not be easy. Saddam is a dictator's dictator. He has Stalin's patience and cunning, Hitler's incomprehension of the value of human life and Kim Il Sung's insatiable fascination with himself."

In the *Sun*, however, a reader's letter suggests a new candidate for the role of Führer: "Churchill must have felt disturbed to see Hitler shaking hands with Mussolini in 1940. Tony Blair should be equally concerned at the handshake between Schroeder and Chirac pictured in the *Sun*. It's not the same situation as 1940, but the aims are exactly the same." So, in the space of 24 hours, Chirac has been transmogrified from Arthur Greenwood into Il Duce.

But wait! Just when there seems a grave danger of analogy-overkill, the *Daily Mirror* elucidates the lessons of history with dazzling clarity. "Bush's state of the union speech last night was reminiscent of that other great moment in 1938 when Hitler called his generals together and told them: 'I must have war'," John Pilger writes, in a thoughtful 2,000-word essay splashed on the front page. Tony Blair, he reveals, "is the embodiment of the most dangerous appeasement humanity has known since the 1930s. The current American elite is the Third Reich of our times."

And, no doubt, Pilger is our very own Anne Frank.

Pseuds Corner

Glamorously fresh turbot with a rude, randy salad of oily greens, lemony grated carrots and real tomatoes. Best enjoyed as a supper on Heybeliada in the Maramara Sea, hugger-mugger with sun-warm family and friends, Istanbul's glistening lights strung over the endless horizon. Just add brown bottles of Afyon water, cool Sarafin wine and pealing children's laughter.

KEVIN GOULD
'Twenty things you must eat before you die', *Guardian*

Ferran Adria did not feed us. He deflowered us. He took our innocence, and left us elated, confused and melancholy.

GILES COREN
Restaurant review, *The Times*

Twombley's paintings are florid, romantic and ornately overstated; they are baroque, decadent concoctions; they are the paintings Edgar Allan Poe's Roderick Usher might have done; they are sensuous flowers of the south; they are seriously unedifying, poisonous vintages. They are letters to history from the heart of a corrupt empire.

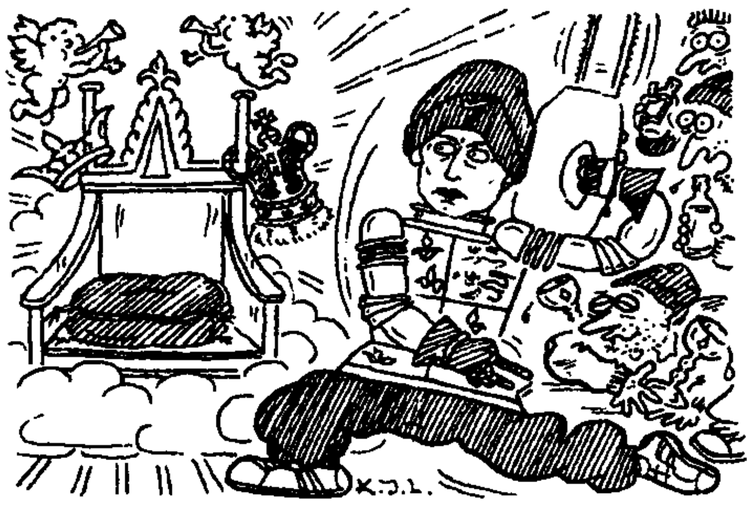
JONATHAN JONES
Guardian

…Snow is Nature's theatrical masterstroke, its perishing piece de resistance. No man-made projectile has as ambitious a reach as the stealthy amassing of snowflakes. No missile is as suddenly and deftly transformative. Snow comes as Nature's retaliation to the grubbiness and wretchedness that human beings have imposed on their landscape. In one fell swoop the grime and tawdriness of everyday life is simply erased…[continues endlessly]

Times leader

"I have incredible respect for him," he says. "He has a superbly discerning eye and knows exactly what he wants. I remember in the 1980s I had to go to New York for a vital meeting with him. I caught the quick plane (as Blahnik calls Concorde), although I was so sick that I was hallucinating. When I got to Calvin [Klein]'s office, he said 'beige'. And then I came home. That's what I love about him. The focus."

MANOLO BLAHNIK
Sunday Times



And yet Curtis Hanson has crafted too nuanced a movie to close on an unambiguous high. This is not The Karate Kid. Indeed, in the closing moments, it becomes clear that the organising myth of *8 Mile* is not *Rocky* but *Henry IV Part 1*. Jimmy (Eminem) is Prince Hal, the king in waiting, who must stop slumming in low company and strike out on his own if he is to ascend to his rightful throne.

COLIN KENNEDY
Empire

CONTRIBUTORS: Everyone, Terry Long, Lucien Jenkins, Robin Parker,Strobes, Anon.

£10 paid for all entries

IN THE BACK

QINETIQ COMMONS ASSAULT

THE scandal surrounding the ludicrously cheap purchase of a big stake in the ministry of defence's research arm, Qinetiq, by the US venture capitalist giant Carlyle Group, grows by the day.

Carlyle, whose European chairman is one John Major, paid just £42m to the treasury for management control and a third-share in Qinetiq in an outrageous privatisation deal that cost UK taxpayers double that in legal and advisory fees. Carlyle had been expected to pay at least three times the amount.

The firm now expects to make huge sums by selling off thousands of acres of former military training grounds, target sites, tank lands and air strips. For example, Barratt has just bought Dettingen Barracks at Deepcut, Pirbright Common, for a reputed £10m for housing development. The Longcross tank factory at Chobham has also recently sold for a multi-million pound commercial development and many hundreds more acres around the country are up for grabs.

The real scandal is that much of the MoD land used to be common land or what is known as manorial waste. Now the MoD doesn't want it, shouldn't the vast commons at Farnborough, Aldershot, Pystock, Cobbett Hill and elsewhere revert back to public use?

Qinetiq, in its haste to sell what would have been cheap green belt countryside as lucrative brownfield development land, clearly does not think so. But thanks to a 1990 House of Lords ruling and some ancient laws relating to common and manorial waste, and legal duties imposed later in the event of compulsory purchase and change of use, Qinetiq's sell-off might prove more problematic and costly than anticipated. It may have to pay capital gains tax as well as provide exchange land.

Bob Milton, of the Defend our Commons campaign, suggests it is nothing short of theft on the part of Qinetiq. But warnings to the MoD and Qinetiq that it faces possible financial and legal liability if the land-grab continues unchecked have so far been ignored. The national audit office is now investigating.

HEWITT AND CRY

Patricia Hewitt

AT THE start of her statement on 29 January about auditing and accounting, trade secretary Patricia Hewitt reminded MPs of the collapse in the US of Enron, World Com and Andersen. (There was no need to remind them that she herself had worked for two years for Andersen Consulting when it was indistinguishable from accountant Arthur Andersen, which was auditing Enron when it collapsed.)

Her long statement about government plans for the accountancy profession was well received by Tories and most "new" Labour MPs. It was left to Liberal Democrat spokesman Vincent Cable to raise what he called the "big issues" sidestepped by Hewitt.

After the Enron collapse, the government let it be known it was planning two moves: first, to ban auditing firms from doing other accountancy/consultancy work for the same clients, a practice often exposed in the *Eye* as it leads to blatant conflicts of interest; and, second, to insist that businesses regularly rotate auditors to avoid incestuous relationships developing.

The proposals unleashed a howl of protest from the big accountants who were terrified of losing their most lucrative practices. The lobbying was remorseless. It concentrated on the small group set up by the government last September to report on auditing and accounting.

This committee, which became known in accounting circles as the Magnificent Seven, was hardly a bunch of radicals. It was chaired by retired Scottish accountant Sir Robert Smith and included two representatives of the Big Four accountancy houses, Glyn Barker from PriceWaterhouseCoopers and Ted Awty from KPMG. (Both firms are heavily engaged in cross-selling, supplying audit clients with other services.)

There were also representatives from firms that use the accountancy experts: one from Reed Elsevier; one from Legal & General and one from serial tax avoider Natwest. The seventh member was a partner in the big City law firm Herbert Smith. There was no trade unionist; no genuine independent; and certainly no academic such as Professor Prem Sikka of Essex University, whose pamphlet last year (co-written with Labour MP Austin Mitchell) entitled *Dirty Business: The Unchecked Power of Major Accountancy Firms*, did so much to expose the foul accountancy practices and proposed so much to put them right.

The tightly-knit group of commercially-minded men came to the unsurprising conclusion that there should be no ban on cross-selling of audits and consultancy services, and no rotation of auditors. Meekly, the Smith proposals were accepted almost wholesale by the industry secretary.

ON 20 JANUARY Hewitt welcomed the report by Derek Higgs on non-executive directors. More independent non-execs would, she promised, ensure that businesses behaved themselves.

The very next day Hewitt announced the four non-executive directors for her new strategic board that will take over the functions of the Office for Fair Trading. Among them was Lord Blackwell, a Tory peer who chairs the right-wing think tank the Centre for Policy Studies.

Much of Lord Blackwell's experience as a non-executive director stems from his membership of the board of the big retailer, Dixons. Twice last year Dixons, with its non-executive directors working full pelt, found themselves up in front of the director-general of the Office for Fair Trading. In the first case, in April, the d-g took the view that Dixons' adverts for "interest free credit" or "0 per cent finance" were in clear breach of the legislation and the company duly altered its adverts.

Lord Blackwell

In the second, in July, the d-g referred Dixons warranties' on appliances like washing machines – a £500m business – to the competition commission. He argued that the effectiveness of warranties is limited if the companies offering them use exploitative tactics to sell them, and charge too much. Dixons and its non-executive directors were furious. Now he is a gamekeeper on the OFT himself, no doubt Lord Blackwell will see the point.

CZECH MATE

THERE are, as the Eye well knows, various defences to a libel action. The safest and surest is that the published facts are true. Another rather contradictory but increasingly popular defence is that of "privilege".

A curious case recently in the high court suggests that published libellous statements, even if completely untrue and very damaging, can be "privileged". Especially, it seems, if the people who make them are connected to foreign embassies or the security services.

Eye readers already know a bit about a mysterious company called Hakluyt, named after an allegedly famous geographer. The firm offers "intelligence information" to companies that can afford to pay fat fees. The company featured on the front page of the *Sunday Times* of 17 June 2001, where it was exposed as an employer of spies in the green and peace movements who, for suitable payments, will pass on information.

In the recent libel trial, a prominent Czech businessman called Karel Komarek sued a British company called Ramco. Eye readers (934) may remember Ramco as the energy company doing business with the not entirely savoury government of Georgia, greatly assisted by the presence on its board of the former Tory foreign secretary Sir Malcolm Rifkind.

The Komareks and Ramco came together in a joint oil exploration and distribution business in Czechoslovakia. In March 2000 the firms fell out. Ramco searched around for dirt with which to smear the Komareks. Sir Malcolm Rifkind recommended Hakluyt. For a fee of £40,000, Hakluyt produced a devastating report on the Komarek family and their firm. The report was full of the most damaging information about the Komareks' alleged murderous and fraudulent activities. Ramco duly passed on the gist of this material to the British embassy in Prague. The material was discussed at meetings between Rifkind and the then foreign secretary Robin Cook.

Some of the material, suitably masked as "allegations", was leaked to (and published in) the *Financial Times* soon afterwards. But the hyper-efficient Hakluyt slipped up. Apparently by mistake, it sent its report by courier to the very people it was accusing, the Komareks. Perhaps naturally, the Komareks, who utterly deny all the allegations, sued Ramco for libel, alleging that false information had been circulated to blackmail their firm into settling their commercial dispute.

The case came up last year in the high court in front of the experienced libel judge Mr Justice Eady. There were two remarkable aspects to it. The first was the almost complete lack of press interest in a case that resonated with spies, top diplomats and politicians and the connections between them. The only paper to report the case in any detail was the *Scotsman*.

The second strange feature was the failure of the legal process to test the allegations made in the Hakluyt report. The Ramco directors who gave evidence, including Sir Malcolm Rifkind, made no attempt to justify the fantastic allegations they had passed on. Indeed at one stage Rifkind seemed to concede that the allegations were probably untrue. Nor was there any chance for the Komareks to argue in court that they were entirely innocent of the accusations. Truth was never a matter for the court. The only issue was "privilege".

Ramco's lawyers argued that they passed the information to important people at the British embassy "for the common convenience and welfare of society" and that therefore the information was "privileged". The only remaining question was whether the information had been passed on "in malice", a proposition quite easy to disprove. After an interim judgment in December, Mr Justice Eady finally declared that the actions of the company were not malicious, and that they were privileged. The matter did not even go to the jury. The reliability of the extravagant Hakluyt claims were never tested, and the Komareks are faced with the full costs of the case – at least half a million pounds.

WOMAN IN THE EYE

SUE, GRABBIT AND RUN

WHO is Sue Slipman, just appointed by the financial services authority (FSA) as "Queen of the Watchdogs", chairwoman of the FSA's new ombudsman scheme?

Like foreign secretary Jack Straw she is a former president of the National Union of Students, though unlike Straw she was at the time a member of the Communist party. In 1981 she was so excited by the formation of the right-wing Social Democratic Party that she joined it straight from the Communist party and was soon a member of the SDP's national committee.

Sue Slipman

She became so devoted to the party's leader David Owen that she even learnt to talk like him. But her new affiliation didn't help her own career very much. She fought Hayes and Harlington in 1987 for the SDP and managed to drag the party's 1983 majority of 11,842 down to 6,641. The SDP disintegrated soon afterwards; but, like her hero Owen, Slipman shunned the Liberal Democrats. Instead she rapidly made friends with "new" Labour.

She was for 10 years director of the National Council for One Parent Families, and served for two years after that on the Gas Consumers Council. At last, in 1998, she got a job worthy of her talents.

She was approached by Camelot, which had won the monopoly gambling contract to run the national lottery and wanted a press secretary. Sue was quick to reject such a lowly post which, she argued, would not make full use of her potential. What was needed instead, she felt, was a board member who could prove to the world how committed was the Camelot board to ethical and responsible behaviour. So she agreed to take the press post provided it was redefined as "director of corporate responsibility".

In rich "new" Labourspeak she explained: "Camelot made a significant decision not to have a communications director because what they needed instead was someone to make that corporate citizenship, consistent and at the heart of the company." Her own courage and fearlessness, she went on, was not in doubt. "I think the company would not have chosen me if it wanted an easy ride. I have a record of fighting particular issues and I'm not going to stop that."

Camelot was fighting at the time for a renewal of the monopoly franchise from the government. One of Camelot's "good citizen" pledges under Slipman's leadership was that the directors would not get big pay rises if they won the franchise. One of the Camelot board's first decisions after its successful defence of its franchise in 2001 was to invite Sue Slipman on to the board and to publish her salary – £264,000 a year. She was no longer director for corporate responsibility, but director of external relations – in charge simply of press and public relations after all.

Corporate responsibility was transferred to the already busy desk of Steve Thomson, the human resources director. Asked whether this move meant that the idea of corporate responsibility was being downgraded, Camelot said no, not at all. Because of Sue Slipman's excellent work, the concept of social responsibility was now "embedded throughout the business", and so there was no need for a full-time corporate responsibility director. Instead Sue Slipman could write important letters to the newspapers drawing their attention to exciting new lottery games such as "hotpicks".

Sadly, her indispensability to Camelot soon faded. Last October she was kicked off the board, with a socially responsible pay-off of £220,000. She could then devote all her time to her CV, and to her application to become one of the top government ombudsmen with powers to ensure that people in high financial places behave responsibly.

CIGARETTE SMUGGLING

IMPERIAL LATHER

A SWOOP by customs officers in Germany marks the latest trouble for Imperial Tobacco – just weeks after British MPs accused the firm of aiding the black market in cigarettes.

The British firm's German subsidiary Reemtsma is being investigated by German authorities for allegedly making illegal exports to Iraq, dodging taxes at the same time as breaking international sanctions. Manfred Häussler, sales and marketing director of Imperial, was arrested but later released without charge pending further inquiries (despite Imperial putting out a statement that Häussler had been charged).

According to the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, German customs suspect that the cigarette producer sold $275,000 worth of cigarettes to Iraq in the first half of 2000 alone. The firm is also suspected of deliberately selling cigarettes to eastern European crime groups who then smuggle them back into the EU, thus evading taxes.

Nine hundred police and customs officers were involved in the Hamburg raids and confiscated two trucks-full of material from the various locations searched – including the Reemtsma offices and Haussler's home.

Earlier in January the UK Commons public accounts committee produced a report revealing that more illegal smuggled cigarettes of Imperial brands were sold in Britain than were sold legitimately. They said billions of cigarettes were being exported to tiny markets such as Andorra and Kaliningrad to ensure they would come back to Britain illegally. The MPs also accused Imperial of being "reluctant" to help customs investigations.

There's trouble meanwhile for fellow tobacco companies Philip Morris and RJ Reynolds as the European court of justice refused to block legal action in the US against the firms for complicity in smuggling.

FLOOD PLANE?

THE recent severe flooding through the Thames valley in Chertsey, Wraysbury and Staines may get worse as Heathrow airport continues to expand on the Colne Valley flood plain.

The department of transport's own report into a possible third runway at Heathrow has already warned of problems. The south-east regional air study (Seras) suggests that a new runway would "present high adverse impacts on surface water and groundwater". It suggests at least one river would need to be diverted causing "significant impact".

Some experts already blame another up-river diversion, the £100m Jubilee river relief for Windsor and Eton, for the latest disaster down river. Despite that and despite the Seras report, no detailed groundwater modelling or flood risk evaluation has been carried out for either the proposed runway or for the new Terminal 5 development currently underway.

Local campaigner Mike Riley of Hacan Clearskies, which is commissioning its own water studies, says: "Today's airport structures, combined with large landfill sites, gravel pits and reservoirs form a dam interrupting the natural egress of water to the Thames. The new Terminal 5 development and the dumping of over a million tonnes of airport material into old landfill sites on the lower floodplain will further constrict natural water flows during heavy rainfall and cause severe flooding and pollution lower down in the Colne Valley."

Oddly there are no plans for a detailed flood evaluation until *after* the government has made up its mind about whether or not Heathrow will have a third runway or whether expansion will take place elsewhere. Hacan is seeking legal advice to see if the Environment Agency can be forced to carry out evaluation *before* any decision is made about a new runway.

FOLLOW-UPS... FOLLOW-UPS... FOLLOW-UPS...

■ **BUPA:** Further alarming allegations of doping and neglect are set to engulf the Kent BUPA care home that was at the centre of a whistle-blowing scandal three years ago.

They follow the death of 83-year-old Audrey Ford, a former resident of Isard House in West Wickham. In October last year a coroner recorded an "open verdict" on Mrs Ford after hearing how she had been taken to Bromley Hospital rigid and suffering uncontrollable spasms – the side effect of powerful anti-psychotic drugs she had been given in the home.

Although the hospital doctor, recognising the symptoms, administered an antidote, Mrs Ford's family say she never recovered her speech or mobility. She died a few months later, just before Christmas 2001, in another care home following a deep vein thrombosis – most likely caused by immobility but which can also be a side effect of the drugs.

The coroner, Dr Roy Palmer, said he did not know if the anti-psychotics had played a part in her death; or if they had done, whether they were in-appropriately prescribed or administered. But at the time he did not have access to the care and medical records from Isard House.

Mrs Ford's daughter, Dilys Langley, has since managed to obtain some of the records and they have alarmed her and her mother's GP. Mrs Langley has now won a court order demanding that BUPA hand over the rest or explain what has happened to them. Bupa is due back in court later this month.

■ **VACCINE SAFETY:** Campaigners for drug and vaccine safety have long complained that the yellow-card system – by which doctors fill in a card recording adverse reactions and return it to the Medicines Control Agency – catches only a small fraction of adverse events.

Research by the government's own public health laboratory service (PHLS) eight years ago comparing hospital admissions with vaccination records picked up five times as many reactions to vaccines than reported by the yellow card system.

In the *Eye*'s special report *MMR: The story so far*, we suggested that yellow cards completely failed to alert health chiefs to the meningitis outbreaks being triggered by an early form of MMR vaccine which was subsequently withdrawn. But despite official knowledge of the system's shortcomings, nothing was done to change it. Until now.

The national audit office (NAO) has found that three-quarters of adverse drug reactions go unreported, often because GPs and hospital doctors are too busy, do not understand the thresholds for what constitutes a "serious reaction" or consider the system too complicated. It criticises the MCA, which regulates the safety, quality and effectiveness of medicines for not routinely monitoring its safety warnings based on these adverse reports.

Critics have long argued that patient information suffers because of a conflict between the MCA public health role and its role in promoting the UK pharmaceutical industry (it is totally funded by the industry). It remains to be seen if plans to create a new medicines and healthcare products regulatory agency will, as the NAO recommends, minimise the potential for such a conflict of interest and whether some element of government funding will be needed.

You can contact Paul Foot on 020 7287 3183 or the In the Back team on 020 7437 4017

In the City

GOLD is hot. Fears of war and an economic downturn, plus the collapse in the stock market, have – as always – made it a haven, driving the precious metal price to a six-year high at more than $370 an ounce. Gold shares and funds have also been star performers as share prices generally slumped.

So it should come as no surprise that those who specialise in exploiting the latest fad to tempt the greedy and unwary have also turned to gold – but as the bait to revive bombed-out dotcom "shells". Which explains the sudden market resurgence of two AIM-listed companies, one a former legend in its short dotcom bubble lifetime.

Oxygen Holdings epitomised the hype-driven madness of the dotcom boom. On the basis of a handful of unproven internet investments and the involvement of Seymour Pierce boss Keith Harris, Elisabeth Murdoch (daughter of Rupe) and her PR man husband-to-be Matthew Freud, this so-called internet incubator rocketed to £55 in the days after its January 2000 flotation. By last year it was a penny stock. Even a name change to Tera Group did little to improve its standing. But now renamed once more as Hanover Capital, it is on the rise again, up from 3.5p to 12.5p and a market capitalisation of £6m since early December on a move into gold exploration in the West African state of Mali.

Underwriting & Subscription was also an internet investor which went largely unnoticed in 2000 but still managed to almost treble at 140p on hot air. By last year it was less than a penny stock, sinking as low as 0.35p last April; but it too is moving up – from under 0.5p to 1.2p since October. The company is negotiating with Hanover to acquire gold mining interests in the former Soviet central Asian republic of Kyrgyzstan for £13m – its capitalisation is now just £160,000.

These developments would be unremarkable were it not for the cast of colourful City characters who are involved and their associates – some publicly, others in the shadows. These include:

Michael Edelson: the Manchester United director and AIM shellmeister who made his name with quintessential bubble stock Knutsford (which soared so high it was never able to do a deal because nobody would accept its shares as bid currency) but was also behind Oxygen, Soccer Investments, Prestbury and Hartford.

Stephen Lumb: a financier with an interesting track record in South Africa.

Peter Abbey: now a Monaco-based AIM and OFEX dealmaker with a track record which has put him on regulators' radar screens.

Jo Malins: who resigned after costing railway locomotive makers Telfos £20m on bad investments.

Andrew Counsell: an Australian who left for London to avoid bankruptcy.

Ronald Lowenthal: a South African broker whose firm had more dogs than Crufts.

Carlo Colombotti: "the Count of Tonypandy", less than fondly remembered by fans of Sheffield United.

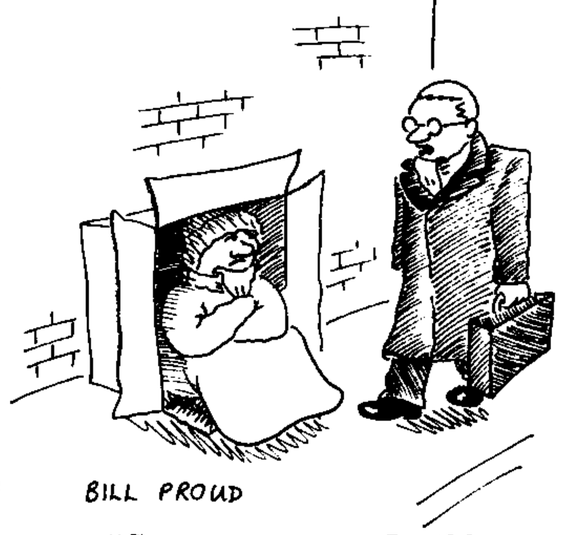
Peter Catto: now presumably helping the Serious Farce Office with its inquiries into the disappearance of £33m from another internet survivor, Izodia.

Edelson, by far the most respectable of this unholy crew, is perhaps surprising to find in such company. But the others have connections which have linked them over long or short periods.

Edelson was chairman of Oxygen and remains chairman of Hanover. Malins became a director last October. The brokers are now Fiske, veteran survivors of the Usual Suspects List. Telfos under Malins invested in Fiske back in 1988. Edelson and Fiske are close.

Malins was forced off the board of Telfos, where he was chief executive, in 1990. Shortly afterwards the company wrote £7m off its non-core investments, including one shared with Polly Peck fugitive Asil Nadir.
Another £13m was written off in 1991, including most of the Fiske investment.

In December – two months after Lowenthal joined the board with Malins – Hanover announced that it had bought into four concessions in Mali, described as one of the new frontiers for gold prospectors. The Anglo American group has one of the world's biggest mines there. Whom Hanover bought from for more than £1m is unclear. The concessions are held through offshore companies Valley Forge Site and Steinbeck. The vendors are hidden behind more offshore names like Keyvale Investments, Vadni International, Gold Flower and Sunoak Holdings who received more than 10m shares.



"So you got your flexible hours then?"

The Mali vendors took their Hanover shares at 10p with warrants at 20p and 24p. More shares have since gone to other Steinbeck shareholders – Taunton Vale and Stonedale Investments. It has also invested £500,000 in Barnard Castle, the unlikely named offshore owner of a copper-nickel-platinum prospect. How so many concessions in a Francophone country came to be owned by offshore companies with English names is not explained but raises lots of questions about who owns Hanover – at least 50 percent is held offshore – and whether outside investors will get the shaft while others walk away with the mine.

Not content with the prospects of gold in them thar Mali desert hills, Hanover has also gone into the trading of environmentally friendly carbon credits by purchasing a stake in EIE where Malins just happens to be a director and major shareholder. EIE is now a major shareholder in Hanover with 11 percent.

It would appear that Stephen Lumb and his old friend Ronald Lowenthal are behind this trans-formation. Lumb is a director with Edelson and Malins of Oxygen Investors, a Hanover subsidiary.

Lumb was not unknown to Peter Abbey, a former dentist in the 1990s when Abbey was partnering Harvard Securities' Tom Wilmot in such crash and burn situations as Firecrest and Skynet. Before that Abbey featured in video nasties Home Video during the early 1980s and Video Store in 1990. His Abercorn Investments ceased trading in 1997, owing creditors. Abercorn has been struck off, as has Abbey's Detailprofit Trading and Unquoted Companies Newsletter. Prior to heading for Monaco, Abbey is understood to have entered into an individual voluntary arrangement with his creditors. Those with knowledge of the Hanover deals say Abbey is involved behind the scenes.

Lumb and Lowenthal have done more recent business in South Africa. Lumb surfaced there in 2000 as chief executive of Internet Gaming Corporation. Igaming's broker was Incentive Securities, formerly Lowenthal & Co, owned by Incentive Holdings where Lowenthal was a director. Incentive/Lowenthal was hyperactive during the 90s with IPOs. Many were duds. Lowenthal was a director of one, Celtron, which crashed into administration in 1998.

Igaming was to provide gaming websites and claimed to have one planned for the Cook islands and another in Belize. The latter was licensed to a UK company, Cybergaming.com, which was said to be seeking an AIM listing. Lumb was a director of Cybergaming. There was no listing and the company is about to be struck off. Another abortive AIM listing linked to Lumb was skin treatment venture C3 Holdings, a client of Malins' boutique Thurloe Corporate Finance.

Within weeks of Igaming's flotation, the South African regulators were investigating manipulation of its share price which defied gravity on suspiciously small turnover rising some five times to a capitalisation of £70m. The Johannesburg stock exchange (JSE) declared that certain of the suspect deals were carried out by associated parties. Like Hanover, most of the Igaming shares were held by opaque offshore companies.

Chairman of Igaming was Carlo Colombotti, the London lawyer who has several interesting Italian clients. Over a year from 1998 the count promised much at Sheffield United but left without changing anything.

Colombotti had also been chairman of another Lumb JSE promotion, Essential Beverages, a spectacular venture capital failure with a supposed vitamin enriched mineral water. Incentive/Lowenthal had also been brokers to Essential.

In August 2001 the JSE suspended dealings in Igaming, Essential and another shell Lumb was proposing to rescue, Oxbridge Online. Both

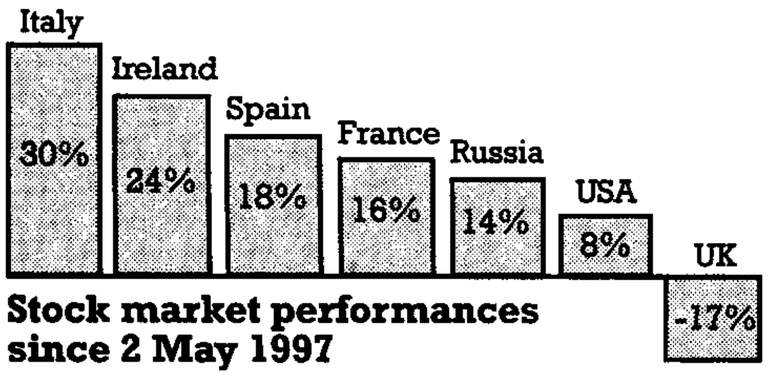
THE DIRECTORS

DREDGE & RIGG

Stock Horror

by 'Bruin'

New Labour, old story



Stock market performances since 2 May 1997

companies were to have paid millions in shares for suddenly valuable Igaming assets which had escaped mention in its prospectus a year before. The JSE said Igaming had failed to comply with its regulations by not having a sponsoring broker – Incentive/Lowenthal having quit – and had not produced interim figures. Lumb, who resigned as chief executive saying: "I'm not big on running companies", claimed he was unaware of these requirements. Colombotti also resigned. 2001 also saw the reckoning for Incentive Holdings. Its shares fell to 1c as the company reported heavy losses and investment write-offs.

Another of Malins' and Lumb's mining connections is Australian Andrew Counsell. They were all directors of Orevest and Harvest Gold. Counsell is best known in London as the founder of Eurasia Mining, which was prospecting in the Ural mountains. But he is far better known in Australia as the former chairman of the Adelaide stock exchange described by a local judge in 1996 as "a bankrupt with a debt to pay" who left for London with the intent to delay or defeat his creditors.

Counsell left Adelaide in 1995 two days after a bankruptcy notice for A$666,000 (£240,000) was served on him. The money was owed to the collapsed State Bank. Counsell was given 21 days to pay or be made bankrupt. He negotiated a settlement for A$200,000. Counsell companies were said to owe a further £2.5m and he and partners had been successfully sued for £50,000 over a failed thoroughbred syndicate.

Counsell quit Eurasia in 2001 and is now involved with London Mining Finance which floated Orevest on the little-regulated OFEX.

Peter Catto is known to Lumb and Abbey as well as Edelson. Two years ago Edelson failed to buy Underwriting & Subscription (chairman Catto) for Oxygen. Catto joined the Izodia board shortly before its £33m went walkabout to Jersey after the Orb group and convicted pension pillager Gerald Smith obtained control.

Lumb and Catto together with Malins and Lowenthal are negotiating the deal to turn Underwriting & Subscription into SHG Gold by buying the interests of Israeli Berti Sinbeti, whose company SHG Gold & Silver operates a gold recovery plant in Kyrgyzstan and hopes to open a second, bigger mining operation there.

The Israeli-owned mining interests will be passed through a company in Gibraltar before being acquired by U & S. Hanover and others would acquire shares in the Gibraltar company before it is taken over for U & S shares. Hanover will have a 23 percent stake. Sinbeti and his associates would be in control of the new SHG Gold but also be shareholders in Hanover.

SHG already has a licence for the Komator mine and is looking to reopen another mine where no work has been done for four years with the government as its partner.

Kyrgyzstan is eager to boost gold production which fell last year. But like Mali a lot depends on the gold price staying high enough to make these expensive mines profitable. Kyrgyzstan also has a reputation for rescinding agreements with mining companies. Not that such concerns are likely to deter those who believe in the case of Hanover Capital and Underwriting & Subscription that all that glisters is indeed gold – even if the presence of so much City low life suggests the contrary.

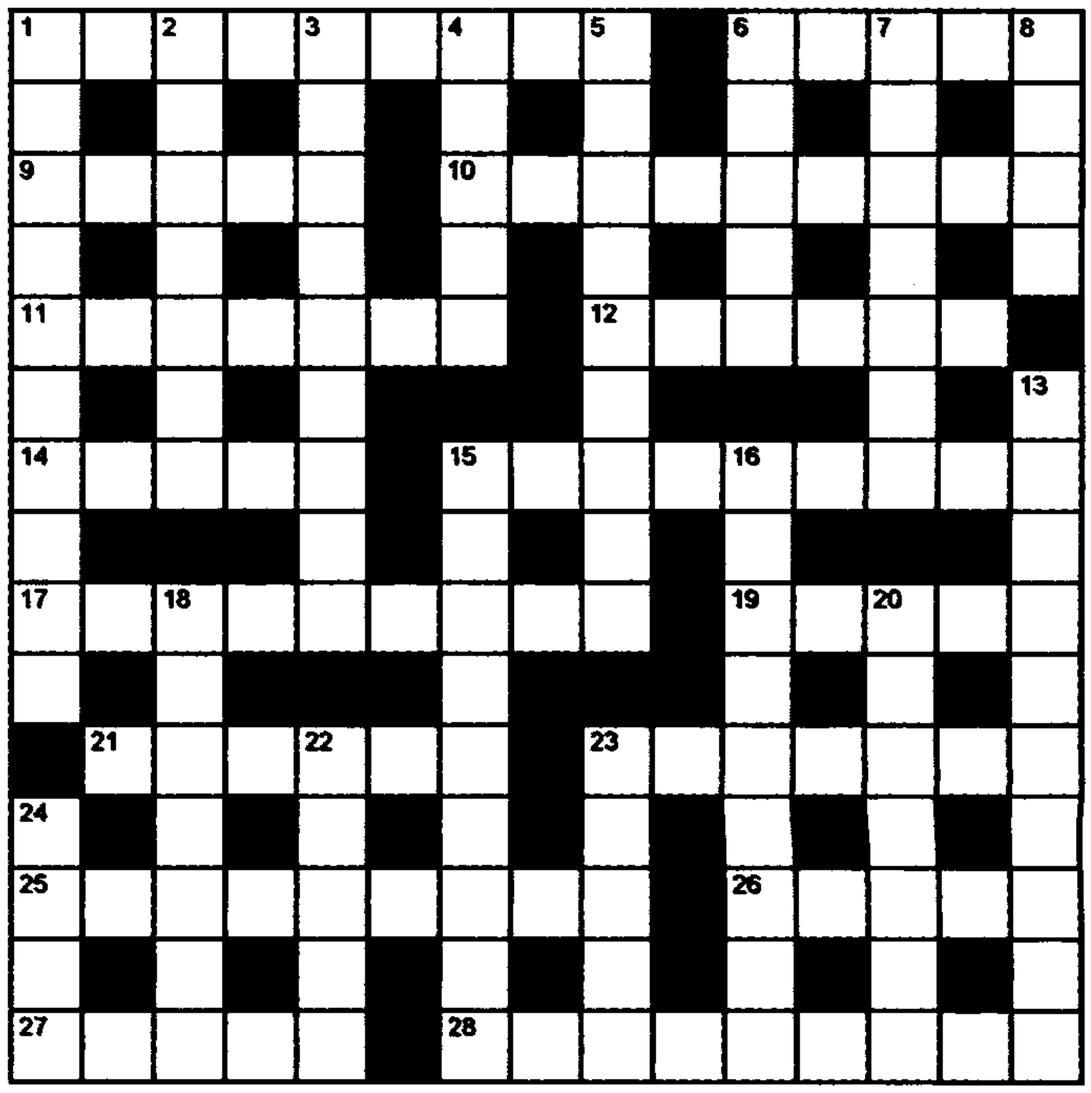
'Slicker'

EYE CROSSWORD 228

by Cyclops

£100 prize to first correct solution opened on 14 February 2003.

Entries to 'Crossword', Private Eye, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN or via email to crossword@private-eye.co.uk



ACROSS

1 Malignant, one's left with time inside – unlike Archer (9)
6 Particular women, in a sexual sense, give alternative head (5)
9 Go on, Tony's No. 1 ousted the spiritual leader? (5)
10 Verity, quite devoid of spin but rather pissed (4,5)
11 Popular record once, gutless Tony long held to be without any talent (7)
12 Go topless after theatre, as dozy types do (3,3)
14 Ulster Unionist drops extreme characters – the way to achieve Church union? (5)
15 Iain Duncan Smith has one testicle (left out on date) repair (4,5)
17 Teaser displaying member – sort who gets the women? (3-6)
19 See the state of boozer (5)
21 Screw Dicky's reward! (3-3)
23 Pat, deprived of a pee during misguided enema, is a cow mainly (7)
25 Was a wanker executed so casually? (6,3)
26 Western women, including 'name', done over in informal speech (5)
27 Newly-weds eschewing second-class shags (5)
28 Broadcaster given the bird and pissed around? (9)

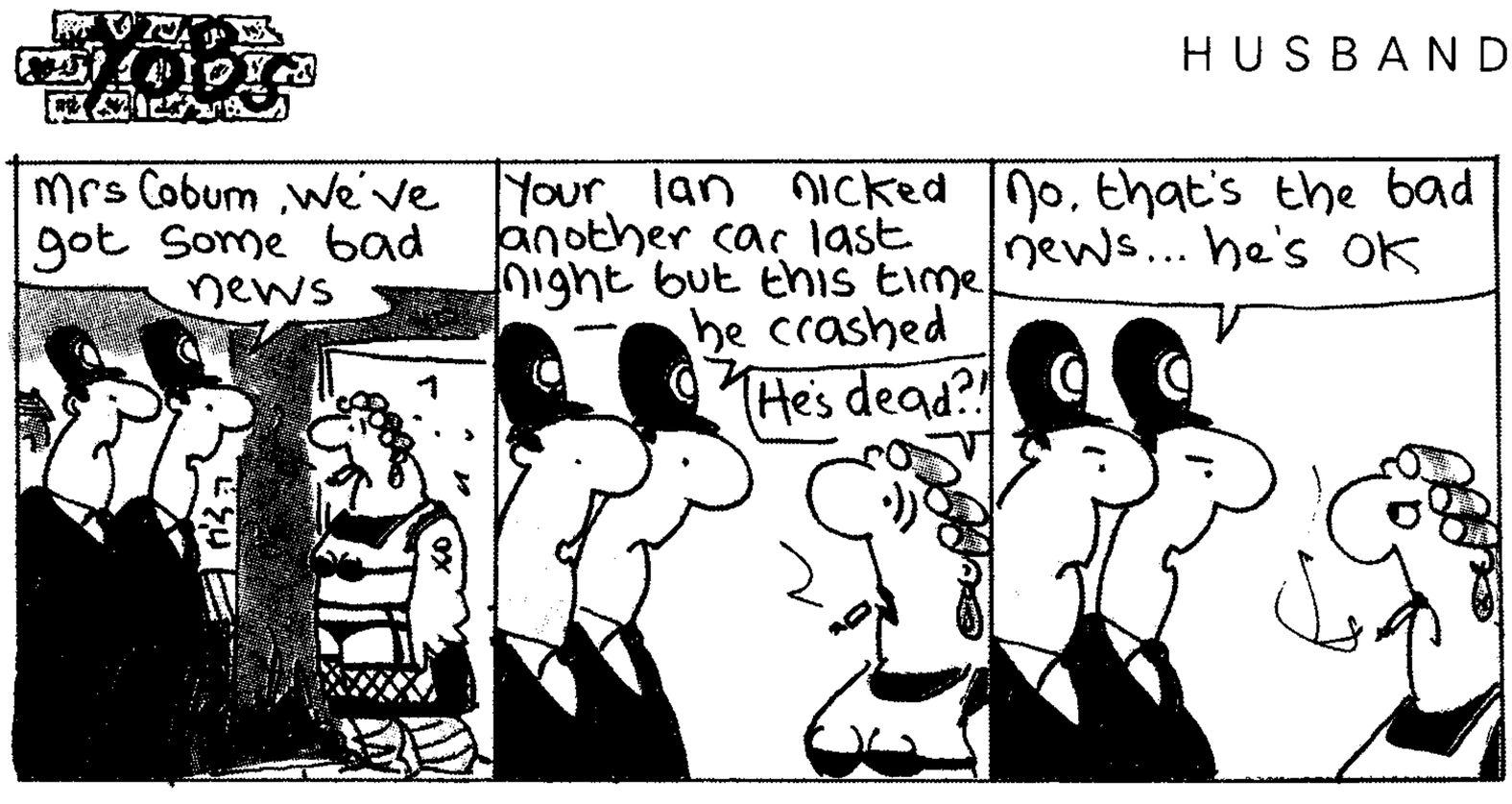
DOWN

1/13 Short-arsed PC wants confrontation with old copper, after (straight up) (10,10)
2 Masseurs and their safe sex aids abroad? (7)
3 Drink makes one unerotic (9)
4 Wow, love to get hard and rough up... (2,3)
5 ... member of punk group (live appearance in 'Alien') (9)
6 Honoured to get oats, maybe, gobbling model (5)
7 Don't be fiddling with stiff 'un! (5,2)
8 Blair finally gets round House: "May I have your attention ..." (2-2)
13 See 1dn.
15 Bollocks to Frenchmen – they can be so desperate to mate (9)
16 No! Paisley has new scheme for these islands! (9)
18 George, putting on a dress, minced and squealed (7)
20 'Pussy-tramp' is often beneath a model (3-4)
22 Right off dog's balls (5)
23 Married? Doubtful – too quick to take offence (5)
24 Agitation can (4)

Crossword 227 winner: GEORGE HARRISON

ACROSS: 1 Strung up 6 Slobby 9/22 Yah-boo sucks 10 Phone-tap 11/4 A kick in the goolies 12 Piss 13 Boules 15 Rest cure 17 Twiddles 20 Soused 21 Plus 23 Galumphing 25 Birch rod 26 Rarity 27 Inks in 28 Exit poll.

DOWN: 2 Thank 3 Unbuckled 5 Pop star 6 Smokers 7 One up 8 Brasserie 14 Orwellian 16 Cough drop 18 Leg-iron 19 Splodge 20 Samurai 24 Natal.


YOBS
HUSBAND
Mrs Cobum, We've got some bad news
Your Ian nicked another car last night but this time he crashed
He's dead?!
No, that's the bad news... he's OK

Morgan

WAREHOUSE SURPLUS OUTLET

www.morgancomputers.co.uk

MAIL ORDER SALES LINE

☎0870 120 4960

MasterCard · BARCLAYCARD VISA · AMERICAN EXPRESS

BUSINESS HOURS
Monday-Friday 9.00am-5.30pm
Saturday 9.00am-5.00pm

ALL STOCK BRAND NEW UNLESS STATED

Subject to availability, prices subj to change, E&OE. Goods not supplied on a trial basis.

CENTRAL LONDON
64-72 New Oxford Street
London WC1A 1AX
Tel 020 7255 2115
Fax 020 7436 6285

WEST LONDON
Unit 25 Derby Road
Metropolitan Ctr UB6 8UJ
Tel 020 8575 0055
Fax 020 8575 7985

BIRMINGHAM
34 Edgbaston Centre, Hagley Road, Birmingham B16 8SH
Tel 0121 452 1141
Fax 0121 455 6855

MANCHESTER
Unit 11-12 Station Approach
Manchester M1 2GH
Tel 0161 237 1111
Fax 0161 237 3146

CANON INKJETS

COLOUR INKJET RANGE

S200 720 x 2880 dpi, 5ppm mono, 3ppm colour, USB...**£34.99** (£41.11)

S520 1200 x 2400 dpi, 14ppm mono, 9ppm colour, USB...**£79.99** (£93.99)

S900 1200 x 2400 dpi photo printer, USB interface.....**£179.99** (£211.49)

BJC-85 portable printer, irda/USB/ parallel interface....**£99.99** (£117.49)

All printers are factory refurbished stock with a 1 year warranty. New mono & colour ink cartridges installed.

P■ 1GHz NOTEBOOK

CD-RW/DVD DRIVE

14.” TFT screen
256MB RAM
20GB hard drive
MS Windows XP

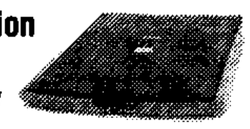
KDS 671XH with Intel PIII 1GHz chip, internal CD-RW/DVD drive, 14.1” TFT screen, 56K modem, 10/100 LAN, MS Win XP. As new re-manufactured stock, US Keyboard - easy UK setup.

£699.99 EX | **£822.49 Inc VAT**

CANON SCANNERS

GRADE A CANON REFURBS

USB Connection
Full 1 year RTB warranty



CanoScan 670U: 600 x 1200 dpi res, 42 Bit colour, flatbed design, z-lid.

£34.99 EX | **£41.11 Inc VAT**

CanoScan 1240U: 2400 x 1200 dpi, 42 Bit colour, flatbed design, z-lid.

£49.99 EX | **£58.74 Inc VAT**

HP PAVILION 410

HP STOCK ROTATION

Celeron 1.2GHz
CD-ROM drive
20GB hard drive
128MB SDRAM

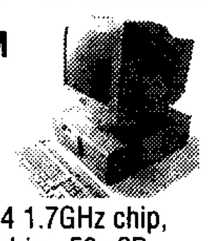
With Intel Celeron 1.2GHz processor, 128MB SDRAM, 20GB hard drive, 48x CD-ROM drive, on-board graphics & audio, 56K modem, MS Windows XP Home Edition & MS Works 2001.

£279.99 EX | **£328.99 Inc VAT**

ELONEX P4 PACKAGE

1.7GHz PC & 17” MONITOR

256MB DDR RAM
40GB hard drive
56x CD-ROM
MS Windows XP



With Intel Pentium 4 1.7GHz chip, 256MB RAM, 40GB drive, 56x CD-ROM, built-in graphics & audio, 56K modem, MS Win XP Home, Elonex 17” monitor. As new - 1 year warranty.

£399.99 EX | **£469.99 Inc VAT**

SUB £20 SCANNER

USB FLATBED SCANNER

A4 scan area
600 x 1200 dpi
32 Bit colour
Slimline design

Medion 9385 flatbed scanner, A4 sized scanning area, lightweight slimline design, 600 x 1200 dpi optical res, 32 Bit colour depth, USB connection to PC, plain boxed. Windows 98 req.

£19.99 EX | **£23.49 Inc VAT**

COLOUR LASER

MINOLTA MAGICOLOR II

600 x 600 dpi
16 page/min
LAN interface
250 sheet tray

Windows laser printer, 600 x 600 dpi print res, 16 ppm mono/4 ppm colour, 8MB RAM (Max 64MB), 250 sheet paper capacity, parallel port & RJ-45 LAN connections. Lowest UK price!

£399.99 EX | **£469.99 Inc VAT**

17” MONITORS

VARIOUS TOP BRANDS

Eizo, Compaq etc
1024 x 768 dpi
Most .27 dot pitch
No screen burn

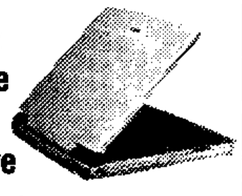
Refurbished 17” SVGA monitors, all in good nick - though some cases maybe marked. Ex-corporate refurbs. **Dell E771P** - 0.27mm dot pitch. Grade A refurb stock. **£69.99** (£82.24 Inc VAT)

£49.99 EX | **£58.74 Inc VAT**

TOSHIBA TECRA 9000

HIGH SPEC NOTEBOOK PC

Intel PIII 1GHz
DVD-ROM drive
256MB RAM
20GB hard drive



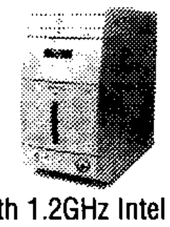
Intel Pentium III 1GHz chip, 256MB SDRAM, 20GB drive, internal DVD, 14.1” TFT screen, 16MB graphics, modem/LAN/WiFi, MS Win 2K/XP Pro, 3 year Toshiba international warranty.

£850 EX | **£998.75 Inc VAT**

SUB £300 1.2GHz PC

STOCK CLEARANCE SPECIAL

Intel Celeron chip
40GB drive
256MB RAM
CD-RW drive



eMachines T1120 with 1.2GHz Intel Celeron chip, 40GB hard drive, 256MB SDRAM, 16x max CD-RW drive, on-board sound & graphics, MS Win XP & Works 2000. Boxed as new.

£299.99 EX | **£352.49 Inc VAT**

DELL PIII 750MHz

EX-LEASE US IMPORT

Intel PIII 750MHz
CD-ROM drive
12GB hard drive
256MB RAM

With Intel Pentium III 750MHz chip, 256MB SDRAM, 12GB drive, internal CD-ROM, 14.1” TFT screen, 56K /LAN combo card. Ex-lease - no op/sys or drivers - minimum 3 month warranty

£569.99 EX | **£669.74 Inc VAT**

HP PAVILION 431

HP STOCK ROTATION

Athlon 1.4GHz
CD-RW & DVD
40GB hard drive
128MB SDRAM

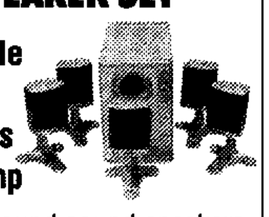
With AMD Athlon XP 1600+ processor, 128MB SDRAM, 40GB hard drive, 24x 10x 40x CD-RW, 16x DVD, on-board graphics, 56K modem, MS Windows XP Home Edition & MS Works 2002.

£399.99 EX | **£469.99 Inc VAT**

VIDEOLOGIC ZXR-500

6 PIECE SPEAKER SET

5.1 compatible
65W output
Ideal for DVDs
Integrated amp



Videologic surround sound speakers, the perfect partner for any 5.1 sound card/DVD player, 25W RMS subwoofer, 5x 8W RMS satellites. Boxed as new catalogue returns - 1 year warranty.

£39.99 EX | **£46.99 Inc VAT**

ORDER ONLINE AT THE MORGAN WEBSITE

THE LATEST MORGAN DEALS ONLINE

Check-out all the latest surplus, end of line deals plus our bargain basement section & managers specials.

Updated to include:

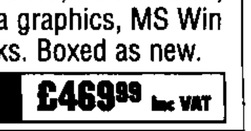
- **A more streamlined purchasing process**
- **Customer/in-house reviews for each product**
- **More product information & easier navigation**
- **New email updates of the latest stock**

www.morgancomputers.co.uk

CUTIE & CHIPY!

CUTIE 20GB DRIVE

Pocket sized
USB interface



Cutie portable hard disk drive, 20GB capacity, USB interface - works with laptops & desktops, ideal for backups.

£129.99 EX | **£152.49 Inc VAT**

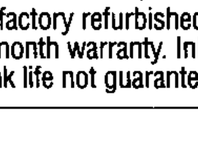
Chipy: Mobile phone SIM card reader & writer, backup/edit you phonebook.

£16.99 EX | **£19.96 Inc VAT**

USB FILM SCANNER

£100 OFF MARKET PRICE!

Negative & slide scanning
2820 dpi res
USB interface



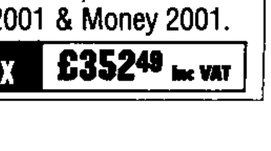
Minolta Dimâge Scan Dual II film scanner, scans 35mm negs/slides, 2820 dpi scanning res, 36 Bit colour depth. Retail boxed - Inc USB cable, drivers & Photoshop LE software.

£199.99 EX | **£234.99 Inc VAT**

DOCUMENT SHREDDER

PAPERMONSTER JUNIOR

A4 sized input
Auto feed
4 mm shred
Inc waste bin



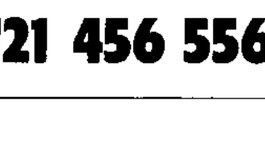
Papermonster Junior - personal shredder, A4 sized input, shreds up to 3 sheets at a time, 4 mm shred size - ideal for document security/protection, inc waste bin - 13L paper capacity.

£19.99 EX | **£23.49 Inc VAT**

PSION REVO PLUS

COMPACT ORGANISER

Slim design
16MB RAM
Infrared port
PsiWin 2.3 o/s



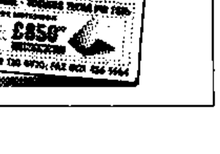
PSION Revo Plus - 16MB compact organiser, 36MHz ARM processor, email/contacts/notepad software, Internet connection option, irda port. Brand new stock - boxes may be tatty.

£99.99 EX | **£117.49 Inc VAT**

ELONEX £250 SYSTEM

566MHz PC & 15” MONITOR

15GB hard drive
50x CD-ROM
10/100 LAN
MS Windows XP



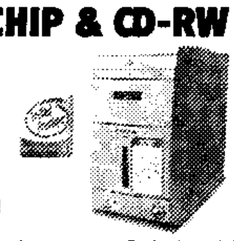
With Intel Celeron 566MHz processor, 64MB SDRAM, 15GB drive, 50x CD-ROM, built-in graphics & audio, LAN interface, MS Win XP Home, Elonex 15” monitor. As new - 1 year warranty.

£249.99 EX | **£293.74 Inc VAT**

EMACHINES T4160

WITH P4 CHIP & CD-RW

Intel P4 chip
40GB drive
256MB RAM
CD-RW drive



eMachines T4160 with 1.6GHz Intel P4 chip, 40GB hard drive, 256MB SDRAM, 16x max CD-RW drive, 56K modem, 32MB AGP nVidia graphics, MS Win XP Home & Works. Boxed as new.

£399.99 EX | **£469.99 Inc VAT**

LEXMARK PRINTERS

COLOUR INKJET RANGE

Z45 1200 x 2400 dpi, 15ppm max, USB interface.....**£39.99** (£46.99)

Z55 1200 x 3600 dpi, 17ppm, USB & parallel interface.... **£59.99** (£70.49)

Z65 1200 x 4800 dpi, 21ppm max, USB interface.....**£69.99** (£82.24)

X83 New version of the X73 - now prints at 12ppm.....**£79.99** (£93.99)

All printers are factory refurbished stock with a 3 month warranty. Ink carts included - ink life not guaranteed.

HP PAVILION 7921

HP STOCK ROTATION

Duron 1GHz chip
CD-RW drive
40GB hard drive
128MB SDRAM

With AMD Duron 1GHz processor, 128MB SDRAM, 40GB hard drive, 12x 8x 32x CD-RW, integrated 11MB graphics, 56K modem, MS Win XP Home, Works 2001 & Money 2001.

£299.99 EX | **£352.49 Inc VAT**

MORGAN GIANT ILLUSTRATED PRICELIST

DON’T MISS OUT!

THE MORGAN FLYER FREE EVERY MONTH

Giant illustrated monthly price list packed full of all the latest surplus, end of line and closeout computer hardware and software deals.

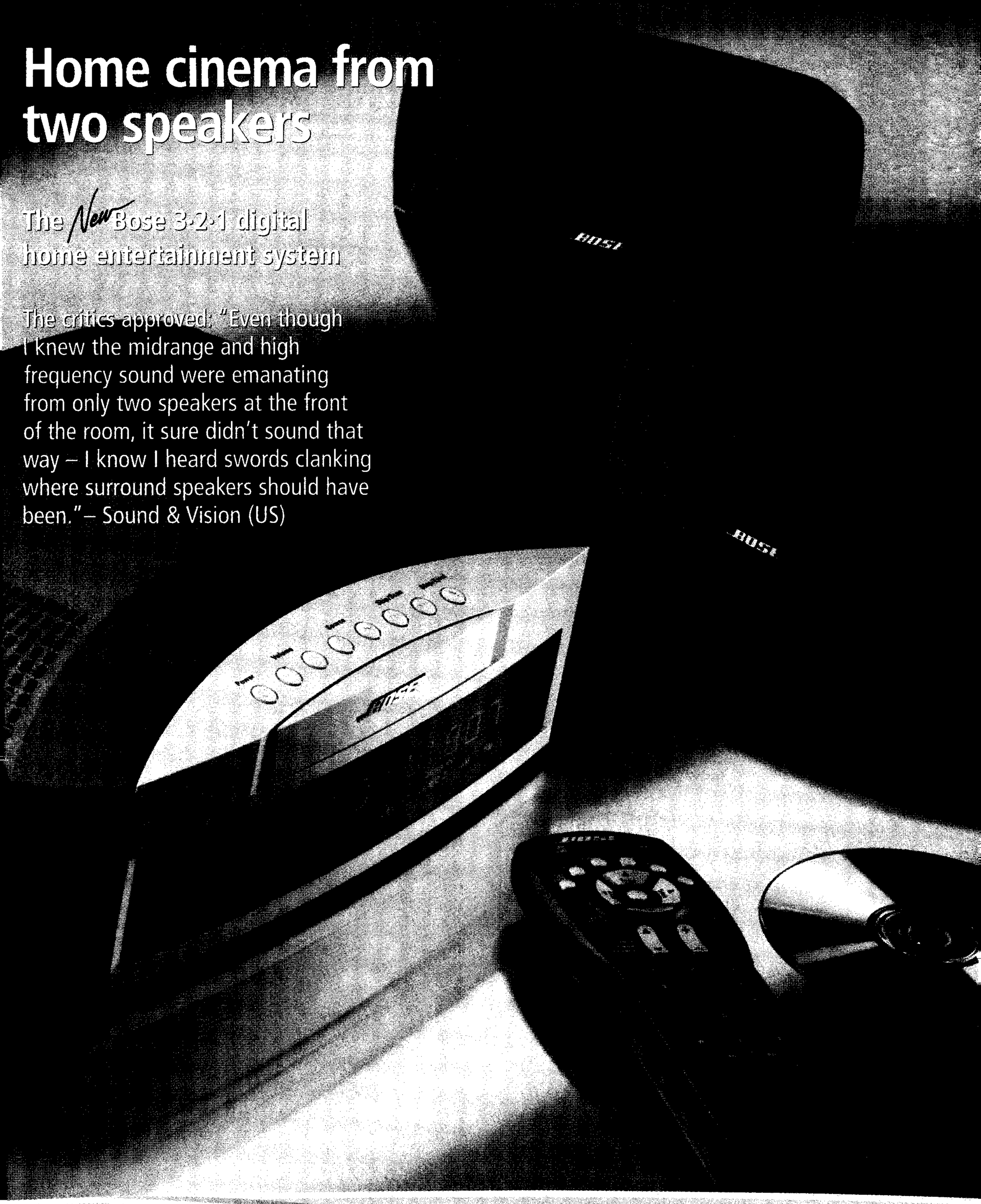
CALL 0870 120 4960

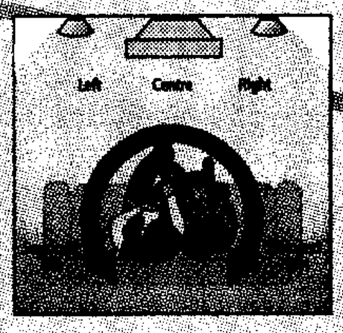
FAX 0121 456 5564

Home cinema from two speakers

The *New* Bose 3·2·1 digital home entertainment system

The critics approved: "Even though I knew the midrange and high frequency sound were emanating from only two speakers at the front of the room, it sure didn't sound that way – I know I heard swords clanking where surround speakers should have been."– Sound & Vision (US)





Call 0800-317942 to request a dealer list or brochure and quote ref. PE03

Hear it! Believe it! Ask for a demonstration.

BOSE
Better sound through research.

www.bose.co.uk

The Open University

Two-year diplomas

Career and personal development for busy people

You can get a qualification from The Open University in just two years without the need to give up work or family commitments.

Choose from 32 diplomas in such areas as: *Computing, Arts, Economics, Environment, Geography, Health and Social Welfare, Information Technology, Management, Mathematics, Modern Languages, Music, Psychology, Science, Social Sciences.*

The Open University is the acknowledged expert in helping people study in their own time. We'll give you the support of a tutor for individual help and advice - a specialist in the subject you're studying. Many courses offer group tutorials and some have residential schools where you can meet other students. And we'll supply you with learning materials of the highest standard. The Open University leads the world in its use of new technology for learning. It's real value for money *and you can pay by instalments.*

Did you know?

- **70% of OU undergraduate students remain in full-time employment throughout their studies**
- **Over 30,000 employers have sponsored their staff on OU courses**
- **150,000 OU students are online from home**
- **Courses can be studied outside the UK**

[1]Accredited by The Association of MBAs.

Call the OU 24 hr Hotline quoting ref UGDABB 0870 9000 301

Advisers available 8.30 - 5.00pm

www.open.ac.uk/brochure/

To: The Open University, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes MK7 6YG
Please send me the following prospectus(es):
☐ Undergraduate Courses and Qualifications (CDD04)
☐ Higher Degrees (HD04) **Complete in BLOCK CAPITALS**

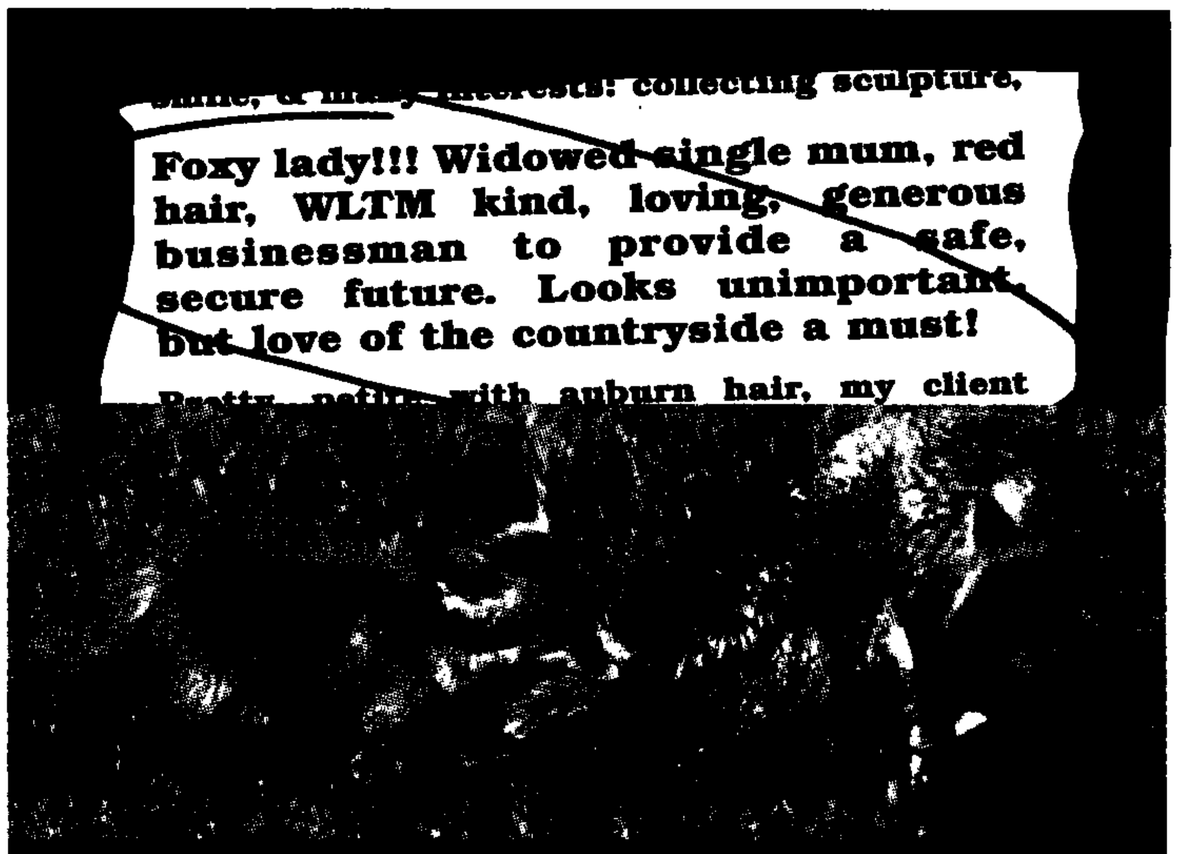
Title Initials Surname

Address

Postcode Date of Birth / /

Tel (Day/Evening)

Email Code: UGDABB


collecting sculpture,
Foxy lady!!! Widowed single mum, red hair, WLTM kind, loving, generous businessman to provide a safe, secure future. Looks unimportant, but love of the countryside a must!
with auburn hair, my client

The League Against Cruel Sports depends on the generosity of its supporters to continue the peaceful campaign for a total hunt ban.

Many businesses support the League as affiliate members or offer generous donations towards specific campaigns.

If you or your company would like to help us save thousands of animals from abuse and suffering contact us today and ask for an Affiliation Membership pack.
affiliate@league.uk.com

For more information or to donate/join online visit www.league.uk.com
League Against Cruel Sports,
83/87 Union Street, London SE1 1SG
Tel: 020 7403 6155
email: info@ntdy.league.uk.com

LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS
CAMPAIGNING FOR WILDLIFE

A VALENTINES GIFT TO SET THE HEART RACING

JOIN ONE OF OUR EXCLUSIVE SYNDICATES...

OVER THE LAST 2 YEARS 75% OF OUR RUNNERS HAVE WON

NEW SYNDICATES INCLUDE CHELTENHAM & ROYAL ASCOT PROSPECTS

Call us for a brochure on:
01452 700177
or visit our website:
www.tweenhillsracing.co.uk

Tweenhills Racing
. . . ahead of the rest

FREE BOOK!

WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE TO PRIVATE EYE

IT'S ONLY £19*

for 26 issues

SAVE OVER £12

on the news-stand price

SUBSCRIBE NOW. . .

and we'll send you a FREE copy of 'Better Latte than Never' by Knife & Packer. Worth £4.99 this is the ultimate coffee-table book based on the cult cartoon strip "It's Grim Up North London"

HURRY – OFFER CLOSES 19 FEBRUARY

Get your magazine the smart way – ONLY 73p* per copy and FREE DELIVERY!

Subscribe today on our 24-hour credit card hotline:

0870 750 1714 **(Overseas 01795 414 871) Quote code N1073**

or order online at www.private-eye.co.uk

Or complete this order form and send with your payment to: Private Eye Subscriptions, P.O. Box 326, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8FA

Please send PRIVATE EYE for one year (26 issues) plus FREE BOOK to:

Title Initial Surname

Address

Postcode

Your daytime telephone no:

(in case we have a query with the order)

Your email:

☐ Yes, I would like to receive news of other products and services that maybe of interest to me.

☐ UK £19.00* ☐ Europe and Eire £27 ☐ Airmail (rest of world) £35

Overseas subscribers can also pay by International Money Order

☐ I enclose a cheque made payable to PRIVATE EYE **or**

☐ Please charge my MasterCard/Visa/Switch (Issue no:_____)

Card number

SWITCH ONLY

Expiry date

Signature Date

Offer applies to new subscribers only.

Source code: N1073

specialEYEs

meeting people

★ STOCKBROKERS • DOCTORS • ADVERTISING • ACCOUNTANTS • ARCHITECTS ★

MARKETING • DESIGNERS

EDUCATIONALISTS • WRITERS

drawing down *the* moon

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION CONSULTANTS - THE FIRST AND FINEST

"a partner for life...that's where Drawing Down the Moon comes in"
FINANCIAL TIMES

020-7937 6263
www.drawingdownthemoon.co.uk
Head Office: Adam & Eve Mews, Kensington. *City Office:* Cannon Street
24 hours. Member ABIA. Est. 1984

★ MEDIA COMPANY DIRECTORS • LAWYERS • PR • BANKERS • SCIENTISTS ★

www.ivorytowers.net

The new intelligent online **friendship and matchmaking site**, for alumni, postgraduates and students of all eras.

It's a new way of doing an old thing.

Free Trial Period

Ci Looking for somewhere to advertise?

communications team **T: 020 7923 5402**

meeting people

...and suppers too!

Only lunch

ONLY LUNCH

the professional introduction service

HOW PEOPLE LIKE YOU
MEET PEOPLE LIKE YOU
0800 908900
www.onlylunch.co.uk

repairs

Don't despair if you have broken your favourite pen!

We specialise in the repair of quality pens. 1920 pens to present day. We are one of the few repairers of the Parker 51 and 61 models.

BROKEN PEN?

We can repair a major fault or just give your pen a general service. All repairs guaranteed for 3 months. Call now on (M) 07736 521730 02476 411438 or simply send your pen direct for a free quotation excluding p&p.

H.W. SALT, 27 Postbridge Road, Styvechale, Coventry CV3 5AG, West Midlands

gifts

BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS

Births, Birthdays, Weddings, Christenings, Anniversaries, Retirements. Papers from archives 1642-2002. Sundays from 1915. Quality presentations. Same day dispatch.

REMEMBER WHEN
445 Brighton Road,
Croydon, Surrey CR2 6EU
www.remember-when.co.uk

020 8763 6363
or call FREE 0500 520 000

OM SAI RAM

BESPOKE
SUITS & SHIRTS

Hours 10.00am to 8.00pm (By appointment only.) Please Email, fax or call us in HONG KONG for an appointment with MR.RAJA DASWANI or alternatively call his suite during his visit. If Mr Daswani is unavailable or not checked in when you call, please leave your Tel number and he will be glad to return your call. *APPOINTMENTS CAN ALSO BE TAKEN FOR UK VENUES ON TEL: 01635 574 233*

A suit that measures up

...at a price you can afford

LADIES

1 Wool Suit
1 Silk Blouse

All from £188

GENTS

1 Super Fine Wool Suit
1 Blazer or Sports Jacket
1 Matching Pair of Slack
2 Silk ties

All from £188

COME ALONG FOR A FITTING

Raja Daswani will be offering his unique tailoring service at the following venues:

London – Sheraton Park Tower, 101 Knightsbridge, London
February 10-16 Tel: 020 7235 8050 Fax: 020 7235 8231

London – Sheraton Park Tower, 101 Knightsbridge, London
March 17-23 Tel: 020 7235 8050 Fax: 020 7235 8231

London – Novotel London Tower Bridge, 10 Pepys St, London EC3N 2NR
March 24-27 Tel: 020 7265 6000 Fax: 020 7265 6060

London – Four Seasons Hotel, 46 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London E14 8RS
March 24-25 Tel: 020 7510 1999 Fax: 020 7510 1998

London – Sheraton Park Tower, 101 Knightsbridge, London
April 7-13 Tel: 020 7235 8050 Fax: 020 7235 8231

RAJA FASHIONS

34-C Cameron Rd., Ground Floor, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Email: raja@raja-fashions.com

URL: http://www.raja-fashions.com Tel: (852) 2366 7624 Fax: (852) 2369 2807

APPOINTMENTS CAN ALSO BE TAKEN FOR UK VENUES ON TEL: 01635 574 233

Customs duties and VAT not included, free alteration and replacement. No Refunds

clubs

The
Blue Angel Club
welcomes you and your friends for a really unforgettable evening. Drink, or dine and dance in luxurious surroundings and be served or entertained by our Angels.
Open Monday to Friday from 6.30pm until late
Membership not required.
17 Little Portland Street, London W1N 5DE Tel: 020 7636 2178

surveillance

DO YOU *REALLY* KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?
SUSPECT SOMETHING'S GOING ON? FIND OUT - WITHOUT BEING FOUND OUT!
Disloyalty can be dangerous. It's often damaging and invariably hurtful. Commercially, it's usually expensive. You may not like the idea of using 'bugging' equipment but it can heighten your awareness and help you anticipate.
You'll be amazed how we conceal microphones and tiny cameras in the most innocent and ordinary everyday objects.

LORRAINE ELECTRONICS SURVEILLANCE
716 Lea Bridge Road, London E10 6AW.
Fax: 020 8558 1338
Central London Showroom:
59 South Audley Street, W1K 2QN
Web Site: www.lorraine.co.uk
TEL: 020 8558 4226

music

justin sullivan
(new model army)
new solo album
navigating by the stars
release date
17th Feb 2003
"deeply, darkly beautiful"
★ ★ ★ ★ LOGO magazine
www.newmodelarmy.org

luxury goods

We provide the luxury filling in the duvet...
Who will you put underneath it?
LUXURY SILK DUVETS
100% long fibre pure silk filled handmade duvet in a 100% combed cotton satin casing
For information telephone:
0845 4502248
MANDARINA TEXTILES
or visit our website:
www.mandarina.co.uk
Conforms to British Standard BS5335, Part 1
Naturally Hypoallergenic

travel

GOING OVERSEAS ?!
Cheapest crossings with perfect accommodation
0800-1691772
info@britishferry.com
www.britishferry.com

MONTGOMERY travel
FULL COMPETITIVE TRAVEL INSURANCE AT LOW COST
COVER
- Medical Expenses
- Cancellation/Delay/Missed Journeys
- Loss of Baggage, Passports, Tickets
- All Winter Sports and Summer Water Sport including Skiing and Deep Sea Diving and Equipment use

Send S.A.E. for Full Policy Benefit and Application Form

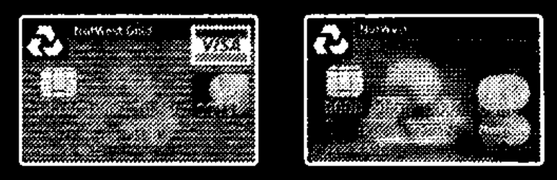
Montgomery Travel
Office 210
3 Coborn Road
Docklands
London, E3 2DA
Phone: 0207 613 2091
Fax: 0207 613 0756

Credit Cards

5.9% APR*
+
AIR MILES
+
No Annual Fee

The benefits add up

- *Balance transfer rate of 5.9% APR for however long it takes to pay it off
- An APR of 17.4% for purchases (19.2% for advances)
- AIR MILES when you spend
- No annual fee



Apply for a NatWest Credit Card today.
Call FREE
0800 444 252
24 hours a day, quoting reference 240011

NatWest another way

This offer is only available via the telephone number advertised. Existing NatWest Credit Cardholders are not eligible for this offer. Credit is only available to persons over the age of majority and subject to status and conditions. Written quotations are available on request. The current NatWest Credit Card monthly rate is 1.349%, equivalent to an APR of 17.4% for purchases, 19.2% for advances. The current NatWest Gold Card monthly rate is 1.277%, equivalent to an APR of 16.4% for purchases, 18.2% for advances. The minimum monthly repayment is the greater of 3% or £5 of the balance. There is an admin levy of 2.75% of the amount of each foreign currency transaction and a cash handling fee of 1.5% (minimum charge of £1.50) payable on each cash advance, purchase of foreign currency and travellers' cheques. The monthly interest rate and cash handling fee may vary. 1 AIR MILE for every £20 of spend that appears on your monthly credit card statement (excludes advances, the purchase of foreign currency or travellers' cheques, balance transfers, interest and other charges). Calls may be monitored and recorded. National Westminster Bank Plc, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR. Registered in England No. 929027.

PRIVATE EYE

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

020 7837 4566

£2.40 per word (£24 min charge)
Border £12 Box Number £12
Two weeks repeated on Private Eye's Website (www.private-eye.co.uk): £10
All charges VAT inclusive
Reply to Box Numbers at address below

Deadline for next issue: Feb 11th

private-eye@communicationsteam.com
Fax: 020 7923 5401
Queries & Info: 020 7923 5442

Communications Team, Exmouth House, 3-11 Pine Street, London EC1R 0JH

SORRY!** The PRIVATE EYE website feedback form for submitting advertisements is temporarily unavailable. Please use an alternative method of booking your ad with credit/debit card. **THANKYOU.

EYE SAY

NOT GETTING the message across? Quick, log on to: www.man-of-letters.co.uk

HENRY SAYS look at www.botanical-prints.co.uk for Koi or grasses.

WHO IS Dr Adoko? www.dradoko.com

CAPITAINE – I'm lost without you. Thinking of Craig David. Love – Sous-Fifre.

UNLIKE BRITAIN AND AMERICA, Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction.

www.arestudentsmiddleclasswankers.org.uk – www.mediastudiesstrikesback.org.uk – www.theuniversityofplumbing.org.uk – www.planningforterrorism.org.uk – www.greeningthegreenbelt.org

EYE GO OUT

13thC MANOR Houseparties/reunions. Sleeps 24. Tennis/Swimming. Services as required. Idyllic setting Somerset/Devon border. Tel 0870 752 4501. www.gerbestonemanor.com

CHELTENHAM NATIONAL HUNT FESTIVAL 11 – 13 MARCH 2003. Beautiful fully staffed country house close to Cheltenham Race Course. Sleeps nine, breakfast and dinner included.£200 per night per person. For further info please call Jackie on (020) 7499 6400.

EYE SEEK

BUSINESS AND FRANCHISE opportunities worldwide – www.businesseeker.com

FRIENDLY WOMAN, living with cancer – wltm others. Age/sex immaterial. Empathisers welcome. Box 0373.

EYE READ

ALICE MCVEIGH'S ALL RISKS MUSICAL, an irreverent guide to the music profession. ('Very amusing' Laurie Taylor THES) Pocket Press, £4.99: www.allrisksmusical.com – bookshops.

OUT OF PRINT BOOKS found – free search. No obligation to purchase – 01376 562334. E-mail: Jeremy.Dore@tesco.net

UNDERCOVER MEDICINE: www.undercovermedicine.com Medicine under the microscope. Launch story: the case of the doctor that some don't want you to know.

VALENTINE GIFTS

BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS made from soap make a unique gift – http://www.soap-flowers.com/en/

INTENSE LOVE? Get intense light – flashing valentine hearts. BLINKIES, the led magnetic badges – www.blinkies.co.uk

INDIVIDUALLY PERSONALISED VALENTINE'S ARTWORK – A beautiful, lasting gift. £24.99. Fast delivery. www.poppylanda.co.uk

www.ENJoY.co.uk – for big boys toys, gadgets, soppy valentine's stuff for the missis etc.

LOVE, BLOOD AND... um... Blood Mugs. Highly symbolic of something-or-other. With message tag. 020 8527 2513 www.poisonmugs.co.uk

EXCLUSIVE AND UNIQUE digital portraits. www.digitaldaydream.co.uk – commission a valentine gift.

THE PERFECT VALENTINES PRESENT – adopt an otter at the international otter survival funds sanctuary in Scotland. Go to www.otter.org and hit adopt, or come on one of our exclusive 10th year anniversary OTTER HOLIDAYS. Tel: 01471 822 487.

CHEESE LOVERS! give your amore a cheesy video.www.cheesystuff.com

VALENTINE'S DAY? click on to www.name-your-own-rose.com for something special.

ARE THEY FULL OF IT? send your own personal valentine message (good or bad) www.fullofitawards.co.uk

EAT IT UP! Perfect Erection. 100 potent recipes inc. Casanova's Kitchen, Little Devils – Wunda Fungi – Are You Game? Slow Burn etc. £25 include P&P. F A Hines, 2 Wellswood Park, Torquay, TQ1 2QB.

FOR FINE PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS visit www.tessafantoni.com

www.BrownPaper.co.uk Online Sexy Shopping: Adult Toys, Lingerie and Naughty Gifts. Automated catalogue request 0870 7443021.

"WHAT A BRILLIANT SITE!" Shop for fun @ www.gizmoandwidget.com

GIFTS FOR THE REDHEAD IN YOUR LIFE – www.redandproud.com – Tel: 01844 274635.

EROTICA for discerning adults. Award winning videos and DVDs. Hand picked titles and the world's best sex toys. Read the reviews and test results before you buy. Fast, secure and discreet service. Over 18s only. Available from www.blissbox.com retailers of the very best erotica and sex toys www.blissbox.com

6 FOOT PHOTOBANNERS – £39.95. 0121 241 7878 – www.ctgraphics.co.uk

PERSONALISED CHAMPAGNE. Your unique message printed on the label delivered NEXTDAY nationwide £29 020 7737 8030 – www.nextdaychampagne.co.uk

EYE NOVELTIES

BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS FREE-PHONE 0800 906609 www.historic-newspapers.co.uk

WHAT'S YOUR CAT UP TO while you are out? Find out with KittyCam! Visit our website: www.kittycam.co.uk

BIRTHDAY DUE? Original newspaper dated their actual birthdate. £19 – 01492 531195.

GOING TO FRANCE? 50 essential insults in French. CD £6.50 includes post and package. Cheque to TUTLE RAX, PO Box 328, Portsmouth, PO2 7WJ.

EYE WEAR

VALET PARK YOUR CLOTHES! Beautiful wooden coathangers. £29.99 (20) Gnome-quibble guarantee. (01932) 342858 – www.thewoodenhanger.com

EYE DRINK

VINTAGE GAILLAC RED WINE 1993-99. Devigne Wines 01938 553478. www.devignewines.co.uk

EYE DINE

DUCK CONFIT & FOIE GRAS from S.W. France at everyday prices. Confit Direct 01938 553478 – www.confitdirect.co.uk

EYE BUYS

20 EYES BETWEEN 287 (December 72) and 366 (December 75). Offers only for set. 01628 822561.

COMPLETE SET EYES plus memorabilia. All sensible offers considered -buyer collects. Box 0771.

EYE SELL

CUBAN EXILE on doctor's orders: must sell 12 boxes of Havana cigars. Call Fidel 07734 739346.

NEED A PICTURE? Exciting new IMAGE LIBRARY at www.jinjaland.com

ORIGINAL FINE ART and limited edition prints by Arthur Nye – www.nyedesign.co.uk

PROMOTE... YOUR PRODUCT... YOUR BUSINESS...YOURSELF with full colour postcards at competitive prices. For sample pack phone 020 7737 7766 or E-mail: cardencounters@btclick.com

DONEGAL PEAT FIRE this winter. 12 x 20kg sacks - £120. Delivered. ph. 02890 838 111. Anytime.

OLD PERSIAN RUGS – mostly £100-£3000. Shed not shop. Telephone first. DESMOND NORTH, East Peckham, Kent. 01622 871353.

RUSSIAN WATCH catalogue available. Send £1 stamp to: Mr Tomanek, 23 Burnside Road, Nottingham, NG2 7HU. www.russianwatches.co.uk

WE INCORPORATE COMPANIES – £98 + vat. Tel: 01306 888542 www.formations365.co.uk/pe/

SERIOUS DUTCH adult videos and DVDS – 0709 200 7572. GLOBAL FILMS NV.

NEED A NEW HI-FI? For anything from DVD to Minidisc, surround sound to CD – nip down to RICHER SOUNDS and pick up the lowest-priced gear in the UK... GUARANTEED! For a free bargain-packed catalogue, call 0845 1 300 200.

DVDs – ACCESS HUGE RANGE by post. Small monthly fee. Fast – convenient. www.diskexchange.co.uk or call 0114 2424672.

HYDROPONIC GROW LIGHTS – FREE mail-order brochure – 0800 056 1875. www.growell.co.uk

FREE ADULT UNCUT DVD & VHS catalogue - send a 41p SAE to Black Dog, PO Box 34984, London SW6 4XT. EROTICA for discerning adults – www.blissbox.com

bum.co.uk domain – good fun, great investment. £5000 ono. 07762 138714·

EYE HOMES

FARMHOUSE: ELY, Cambridgeshire. 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 receptions. Outbuildings. Option to purchase adjoining 3 acres. Hourly trains London – 1hr 10min. £295,000. 01353 688456. www.homesonsale.co.uk

EYE HEAR

JUKEBOX PARTY HIRE. CDs and/or 7" vinyl. Including ROCKOLA BUBBLER. £140+ delivered. 020 8318 2852.

EYE HELP

ACCOMMODATION ADDRESS LONDON W1 (Oxford Circus). Mail forwarding or collection (24 hours), Telephone answering, voicemail. Confidential, dependable. Tel: 0800 0277414. E-mail: info@mailboxeslondon.co.uk

SORT IT! Obsessive-compulsive organises files, archives, libraries. Business or personal, computer or paper. Free quote. 07771 562863 – sorted@meister.com

SPEECHWRITING by Britain's leading professional. Laughter fully guaranteed! Corporate, Social, Political. Strictly confidential. Visa/MasterCard. Call MITCH MURRAY – 01624 622660.

ANTIQUES RESTORED by people who know how – www.lawrencebrass.com

IMPORTANT SPEECH or presentation? Let us help you prepare and deliver it. Video coaching to iron out glitches. Constant support and encouragement. Hugo Summerson(at Speaker Skills Training. 0207-235-5785.

ACCOMMODATION address private, discreet, confidential mail/message-holding service, REGENT STREET. Established 1979. 020 7580 4242. E-mail: enquiry@hold-everything.com – www.hold-everything.com

EYE DRIVE

DRIVER/CHAUFFEUR FOR HIRE – luxury executive saloon, very discreet & professional, London based – all nature of business considered. Call 07736 067212.

EYE LEARN

GNOME STUDY – cartooning courses with EYE cartoonists. Learn at home by mail or from CD-ROM. www.draw-cartoons.com – or telephone 01785 250700.

ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH THE PIANO? Why not join our informal and friendly amateur Piano weekend, held at Magdalene College, Cambridge 4th-6th April 2003. For more details, call Ben Tisdall: 020 7436 8803, or visit www.theoldie.co.uk

EYE BET

0871 711 0431 – Quality horse racing information. CALLS COST ONLY 10p. Selections daily from 11am (recorded message). E-mail: idealrc@talk21.com

EYE EARN

ESCAPE THE RAT RACE www.iwantmorethanthis.com – 0151-728 9435.

GOT A PC? Put it to work. £500 – £2,000 part/full time. Visit www.SelfBetterment.com

£55,486 P.A. TAX FREE www.brimardon.com – 0800 389 8767 established 18 years.

COMPUTER & INTERNET USERS WANTED. Work from home on-line. No experience needed. Full training and support – www.4rapidsuccess.com

EYE WORK

YOUNG ENERGETIC, experienced Operations/Supply Chain Manager seeks challenging and rewarding new position in the South Wales area. Graduate with a proven record of success in Production Management, Production/ Material Control, Purchasing and Logistics. I also have excellent people management skills and am a real team player. Flexible, hardworking and resilient, am now seeking a company whose ambition and drive matches my own. GLS2003@Hushmail.com

PROFESSIONALLY WRITTEN CVs. 01271-867755 – www.qyourcv.com – info@qyourcv.com

LEGAL (LAWFUL) WORK required by ex-IBM mature law student. London-based. Literate & creative. lookin4legal@hotmail.com – or Box 0173.

EYE JOBS

SUMMER JOBS DIRECTORIES, Abroad or Britain (£9.99) and USA (£14.99) list 50,000+ vacancies. From bookshops of Vac Work, 10 Park End Street, Oxford, (Tel: 01865 2419787).

EYE CARE

WEIGHT LOSS. Wanted 100 men and women serious about weight loss. Visit www.HealthyandAlive.com – or call 0870 2250235. Independent HerbaLife distributor.

www.click.to/razors – razors@medicaircraft.com

ERECTION PERFECTION with Viagra from EUROMED. Also Testosterone creams for men/women – enhances sexual ability/libido. 0701 071 8424.

LADIES, COUPLES – intelligent, compassionate company and sensual, complete massage, John 07971 141 799 (London).

ERECTION PROBLEMS? solved. Delivered tomorrow - effective 30 minutes. lowest prices. Telephone 01299 250464.

SEX TOYS, viagra, pills, potions etc... www.xxx.ukhot.com

EYE TECH

COMPUTER TROUBLE? Let a genuine PC expert help you with advice, installation, setup, programming and trouble-shooting – and save yourself some big headaches. Call TOBY on 020 7229 3001 for friendly, professional advice.

SMS TEXT marketing works! text 077 66 40 41 42 with the word "eye" to receive info. Or visit http://sms.a-q.co.uk

EYE PROTECT

CONFIDENTIAL, DISCREET and professional security investigative and surveillance services. SEARCHERS ASSOCIATES Ltd. ASC registered. 01206 386844 – www.salsecurity.com

EYE FINANCE

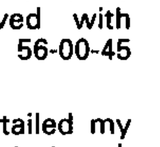
STRICT INVESTOR (£10k) invited for Severe Victorian Film Production. 07971 141 799.

RECENTLY LAUNCHED online business with great potential requires an investor. Telephone Denise (07951) 643238.

GENUINE INVESTMENT opportunity... 28% return with security. Telephone 01229 822368.

TAX RETURNS FROM £50, shoebox accounts from £100. For friendly service call BAS on 01428 604931.

EYE NEED



JUDICIAL REVIEW PETITION lodged against transferring Glasgow Council housing stock to private landlord. Legal aid denied for interim interdict. Urgently need donations to: Jain, Neil & Ruddy, Solicitors, 150 West George Street, Glasgow, G2 2HG.

FIRE-FIGHTER SELF-FUNDING MBA seeks cheap/free Prince2 Project Management Course – ayoung999@tesco.net

HELP ME BELIEVE in miracles! Debt spiral threatens relationship, job, existence-3k needed to make sun shine again. Genuine. All and any help gratefully received – Abbey Nat. 09-01-26, acct. 67194606.

ABOUT TO LOSE FAMILY and home. Need 30K. Please help me. Barclays, 20-11-39, a/c 90302066. Thanks!

OXFORD MUSIC DPHIL, fees c.£15000. Help! HSBC 401804-01516515.

I NEED TO TRAVEL to the woman of my dreams. Please help, I love her so much. All donations received with endless gratitude. NATWEST 56-00-45 00514748.

M.S. AND CANCER has curtailed my ambitions but I still would love to travel. Financial help needed. Huge thanks Abbey national 09.01.26 03981608.

WIDOWER AT END OF TETHER, business on ropes. Needs help to escape Trough of Despond. Grateful for any donations. HSBC 402715 Acc 61357905

PHILANTHROPISTS' FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS consultative support needed for Britain's First Sex School. Enormous opportunity for contributing to (a) the making of scientific history; (b) the genuine alleviation of human suffering; and (c) bringing sexual fulfilment and relationship happiness to millions. Please contact The Principal: 07814 536933.

BIPOLAR MEDICAL student now well on lithium but big debts. Lloyds 30-25-80, 05068975.

HELP! Girl scientist urgently needs £3000 for worthy expedition. Natwest 54-41-19, 32167113.

RIPPED OFF by ex housemate, facing eviction. need money fast. Many thanks, Barclays 20-69-40,70209503.

BRILLIANT FIGURATIVE ARTIST seeks Investors / Patrons for unique, extremely beautiful project. Phone / Fax 0113 281 1223. E-mail: artatac1577@yahoo.com

PLEASE HELP ME TREAT my partner to the present she deserves - aiming for Sydney and don't want to only make Skeggy. All donations received with sincere and heartfelt gratitude. Please help me prove that romance isn't dead: Barclays, Sort Code 20-41-12, Acct No 90626287.

DIAGNOSED clinically depressed. Please help: FirstDirect 40-47-81 30126535. Thank You.

ANY DONATIONS?... Gratefully accepted! Please pay to: Lloyds Sc: 309725, Acc: 01321285 / HSBC Sc: 40-40-01, Acc: 61723782 / Barclays Sc:207409, 40249300. I thank you all kindly.

TWO CHEFS REQUIRE financial help to start organic and local produce Deli. Contact eatwell@em-i.com

TERMINAL CANCER, 30, no job, no money, please help. Halifax 11-00-20 00173806 tessfraser@hotmail.com

TALENTED PROFESSIONAL in training, urgently needing funds to finish course. NatWest 60-02-38, A/C 83531041.

EYE WANT

BARRISTER who is not on the square to work pro bono. Contact Mr John Bradfield. 01423 530900

PORTFOLIO CAREER? Author researching How-To book wants to hear from people with professional fingers in several pies. charles_cohen@mac.com

EYE COLLECT

OLD FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES WANTED. (Pre-1960s) CASH PAID. Telephone: 020 8306 2194. E-mail: david.sturge@btopenworld.com

EYE MOVES

MOVING STUFF. Transit couriers and light removals professional, insured. 020 7622 0511.

JAMES MOVES your possessions. Household / office. Boxes / storage available. 020 8208 1497.

EYE HANG

MOVING EXPERIENCE – professional picture hanging service. Experienced company. Gallery reference. Competitive rates. E-mail: roberto@movexp.co.uk – web: www.movexp.com. Tel 020 7483 2501. Fax 020 7483 4088.

EYE FLY

WORLDWIDE LOWEST PRICES – allegedly! Tel: 01942 603599 / 680268 Fax: 01942 670868. Agents ATOL holders.

FLIGHT OPTIONS – telephone booking service. Tel: 01432 851062, Fax: 01432 850722, HENRY ROGERS, ATOL 3793.

EYE LET

WANT TO LET YOUR HOLIDAY HOME IN CORNWALL? Take the fretting out of letting at www.letyourholidayhome.com

EYE ESCAPE

FIND FREEDOM AND REALITY living in our pure Spanish idyll – www.vergel-alpujarra.com

TENERIFE RESORT DIRECTOR. Superb studios, apartments, duplexes and villas in the South of Tenerife. Save up to 60% off brochure prices. Customer Services: 0845 601 8132. Website: www.teneriferesortdirector.com Email: enq@teneriferesortsdirector.com

GREECE – CYCLADES ISLANDS. Mykonos (direct flights), Paros, Naxos, los, Santorini – plus a dozen quiet ones. SIMPLY SPECIAL. Simply Simon Holidays. ATOL 2578, 020 7373 1933.

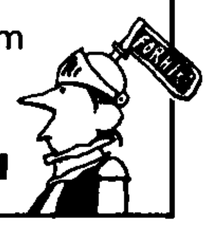
TRULY AUSTRALIA, truly different. Tailor-make your own holiday. Visit www.trulyAustralia.com

COTSWOLD GLIDING CLUB – 5-day holiday course inclusive of all flying and instruction. Prices from £275. Tel 01285 760415 for brochure – see www.cotswoldgliding.co.uk

MALLORCAN PROPERTIES – 00 34 660 980 556. Not all estate agents are Bestards. www.cjbestard.com

Replying to a PRIVATE EYE Smalls box number? Address your reply like this:

Box No...
PRIVATE EYE
Communications Team
Exmouth House
3-11 Pine Street
LONDON EC1R OJH



OCEAN PEAKS TRAVEL: fully equipped, all seasons, camping car holidays for the budget conscious adventurer. From the High Pyrenees to the Bay of Biscay and way beyond. Tel: 0033(0)558 777 984 – E-mail OCEANPEAKSCC@aol.fr

www.placesfromhome.com CARIBBEAN destinations! Budget & Luxury accommodation. Book online!

ORKNEY – small seaside cottage close shops on cliff path, high/low season. One-bedroom. Tel: 01294 467642.

WYE VALLEY Gloucestershire comfortable, centrally heated cottages, weekend/ weekly lets. Idyllic peaceful surroundings. Close to Royal Forest of Dean. Ideal walking/ writing/ painting holidays. 01594 530214. E-mail: wyeart@cwcom.net

ANDALUCIA LA ALPUJARRA – near Granada. Farmhouse in 20 acres – pool and river. Sleeps 10. 0117 9426132. www.catitera.com

www.stayinwales.co.uk – find and book your Welsh holiday here.

IBIZA COUNTRY B/B – double room ensuite, pool. Tel: 0034 971 341797.

CORNWALL, HAYLE, Cottage, Sleeps 8 – 5 Mins Gwithian Beaches – 10 Mins St.Ives All Mod.Cons, incl SKY. 20 July to 14 Sept £595pw – geopz@eurobell.co.uk 07970473342.

DISCOVER RURAL ANDALUCIA and South Provence. Houses with pools, close to Granada coast and skiing. Very affordable rates. French accommodation close to St Tropez, Port Grimaud and Nice. For further details please phone 01 535 271184, Or 07836 613970 or visit www.valle-de-lecrin.com, E-mail ashdown_mc@compuserve.com

www.island-retreat.com – Hidden treasure... Caribbean... Great escape.

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS. Join the International Otter Survival Fund on its 10th year anniversary to discover the wildfire of the Scottish Hebrides. Brochure call 01471 822 487 or go to www.otter.org/holiday.html

THE BEST VILLA IN FLORIDA – Allegedly. Beautiful large villa 10 mins from Disney, 20 mins from airport, sleeps 10, own private pool, overlooking lake. From £500 pw. 0161 775 7676 or www.sunridgevilla.co.uk

SEE THE REAL NEW YORK! Friendly hotel alternatives: private B&B's and apartments. Safe/ central. www.CitySonnet.com, Tel: 001 212 614-3034, Fax: 001 425 920 2384.

LUXURY VILLA HOLIDAY? Rent direct from the owners. Most with pools. www.villalynx.com

TICKLE YOUR FANCY THIS VALENTINE! Try the real thing @ Colwall Park Hotel, Malvern. Gourmet breaks from £69.95pppn 2+nts. 01684 540000 – www.colwall.com

HOUSE. DEAL. BUILT 1707, period furniture plus interior. 30 seconds sea. lottakjellberg@yahoo.co.uk – phone 020 7704 9269.

EYE CONTACT

SPEED DATING – the new way to meet other professionals. 20+ three minute face-to-face dates in 1 night – 08702 430 935 – www.speeddater.co.uk

BEAUTIFUL THAILAND – the Personal Agency for meeting and marrying Thai Ladies. Tel: 01745 730571 or visit www.beau-thai.co.uk

EAST WEST DATING has a data base of oriental ladies living in the UK who would like to meet western men. 020 7351 0750

INTELLIGENT RUSSIAN BEAUTIES seek romance, commitment – www.ellesrussianromance.net, 01606 592219.

EAST WEST DATING has a data base of oriental ladies living in the UK who would like to meet western men. 020 7351 0750

CHAT ROOM 25p/min. 100+ girls online 24hrs. JCG, tn219dz, 09062 765 264.

NATURAL FRIENDS, where relationships just click. Free brochure 0800 281 933 www.natural-friends.com

'CONTACT GENUINE SINGLE WOMEN & MEN ONLINE 24hrs. 60p/min, JCG, tn21 8xz – 09063 620246.

BEAUTIFUL THAILAND – the Personal Agency for meeting and marrying Thai Ladies. Tel: 01745 730571 or visit www.beau-thai.co.uk

RUSSIAN LADIES SEEK RELATIONSHIP / marriage. Introductions in UK. Affordable trips to Moscow/St. Petersburg. Unlimited introductions. Excellent success rate. Phone IFM 01708 478697.

LONESOME OXBRIDGE BLUES? Why not meet somebody new at www.BluesMatch.com

THAI CONNECTION – Thailand's oldest agency celebrates 650 marriages. Videos, brochure: 01582 481725

NEW ETHICAL AGENCY introduces your ideal wife. THAI PARTNERS. Brochure, video 07810 562024 – kthcastell@aol.com

ASIAN PARTNERS: Suman Marriage Bureau. Established 1972. Member ABIA. 020 8571 5145 or www.suman-online.com

Findyourperfectpartner.com – you may just click! Our MutualMatch system is the world's most accurate. 7-day free full membership

BEAUTIFUL RUSSIAN LADIES. Colour brochures and much more. Call Nick & Lilya. 01423 566766 (24hrs) www.russian-rendezvous.co.uk

FLIRT LINE. Call: 09099 100 143 www.phoneflirts.co.uk 75p per min from a BT land line. PO Box 189 CA4 8GW

MATCHMAKER MAG for adults contacts. Over 900 photos. Approval copy from: MATCHMAKER, (S.76), Chorley, PR7 4BS. Or ring: 01257 483335 (24 hours).

FANTASY LINE – Phone: 09099 100 146. www.downtowngirl.co.uk 75p min from bt landline. PO Box 182 CT11 8GT

CHAT & DATE 0906 752 6299*, Live 1-2-1 Chat 0906 734 3206**, Gay Chat 0906 952 6006*, Adult Contact Ads 0905 235 5819**, Live Psychic 0906 734 3707**. http://www.harmonypartners.co.uk – PO Box 17,Ashford,TN23 7YQ. Calls cost *75p/**£1/min from BT Landlines.

PRIVATE ADULT PENFRIENDS – 3x27p stamps to EPPS, PO Box 36, Dartford, DA2 7ZU.

RESPECTABLE SINCERE marriage-minded Thai ladies seek like-minded gentlemen. Free brochure/ video. "Lawrence Lynch – dream weaver" (Louis Theroux BBC). 01562 748600 (24hrs). www.thai-professional.com

INTIMATE CONVERSATIONS! 1-2-1 Adult chat! 0906 9166793. We all have our secrets! Calls cost £1 per min. VINTAGE, 12-13 Greet Street, London W1.

ATTACHED? SEEKING ROMANCE? Call David at LOVINGLINKS 020 7602 8727. Info line 0906 550 1361 (call cost £1 a minute) – www.lovinglinks.co.uk Discreet dating at the speed of E-mail.

EYE CONTACT

GAY UK – online dating club exclusively for Gay Men – www.justmen2men.co.uk

EYE LOVE

"THE MOST HONEST AND ENTERTAINING LONELY HEARTS COLUMN IN THE COUNTRY"
BBC RADIO 5

DAMN FINE WOMAN seeks male (59-99), NW area. Replies from ex-Cambridge men especially welcome. Ox 0993.

DECEPTIVELY QUIET CHAP, 40, tall, slim, PhD, writer, lecturer, VGSOH – seeks ary woman (25-45). Box 0893.

PRESENTABLE MALE, mid 50s, seeks slim, not absolutely broke female, 25-50, to help choose apartment abroad. Box 0773.

VIVALDO, 29, SEEKS Ida for relationship in Another Country. London. Box 0571.

SENSITIVE, LIBERAL, academic female, 31, seeks similar male, 35-45, interested in exploring life, for friendship or more. ballet-tanzerin@danceart.net

WELL-EDUCATED, attractive female, 27, WLTM very affluent male with GSOH (London/South East) E-mail: sarah341975@hotmail.com

MALE MASSEUR seeks female with ache. South coast or near. Email VeryDiscreteForU@aol.com or Box 1273.

ME – BLONDE, BEAUTIFUL, slim, loyal (38). You – very successful, generous, attached, unattached and dreaming of discreet no strings romantic liaisons with sensuous lady. Let's meet and talk, Box 1073.

INTELLIGENT, ATTRACTIVE 32YO GLAMOUR PUSS seeks gentleman 40+ who is intelligent, cosmopolitan and a 'bon vivant' (preferably irrevocably married) – as mentor and lover. London, Box 0673 or georgeous37843605@aol.com

ATTRACTIVE, SLIM BRUNETTE early 40, needs upgrade and pampering – wltmmultimillionaire@hotmail.com

LADY, 52, seeks intelligent outgoing male for friendship London area. Box 1173.

RATHER NICE PROFESSIONAL guy, fit, 43, attached – seeks curvy lady for delicious encounters. Yorks. medman_2@excite.com or Box 0573.

DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN seeks worldly attractive lady, mid 40s+ with keen interest in world affairs – to share tender loving relationship. London. Photograph welcome. Box 0473.

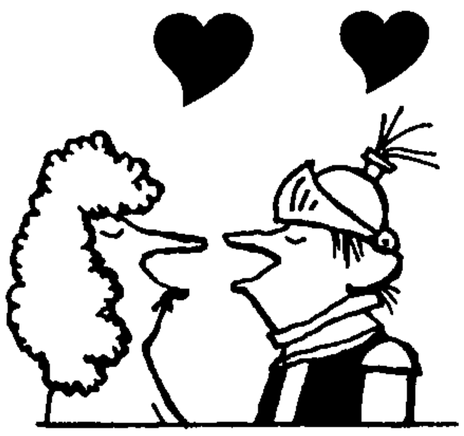
MALE, 45, SEEKS slim lady for discrete liaisons. West country. 07788 773734.

GENUINE GENTLEMAN, cultured, attractive amusing 49, seeks intelligent, vivacious curvaceous retroglamorous (seamed stockings, satin corsets) lady for ritzy romance – gallienus@btinternet.com

LONDON BASED Intelligent very attractive M, 23, seeks wealthy M for enjoyment and experiences. Contact adam8123@hotmail.com

SULTRY BRUNETTE – early 40's, fed up with life's losers – wishes to stand on the winners platform and taste the Champaign. Winchester/South East email:attractivebrunette@hotmail.com

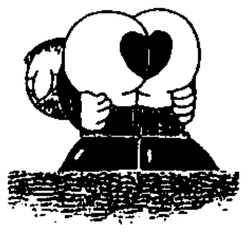
ATTRACTIVE MID 40S married male seeks married female for passionate affair and fun. Discretion assured, London and the home counties, Apply Box 0273.



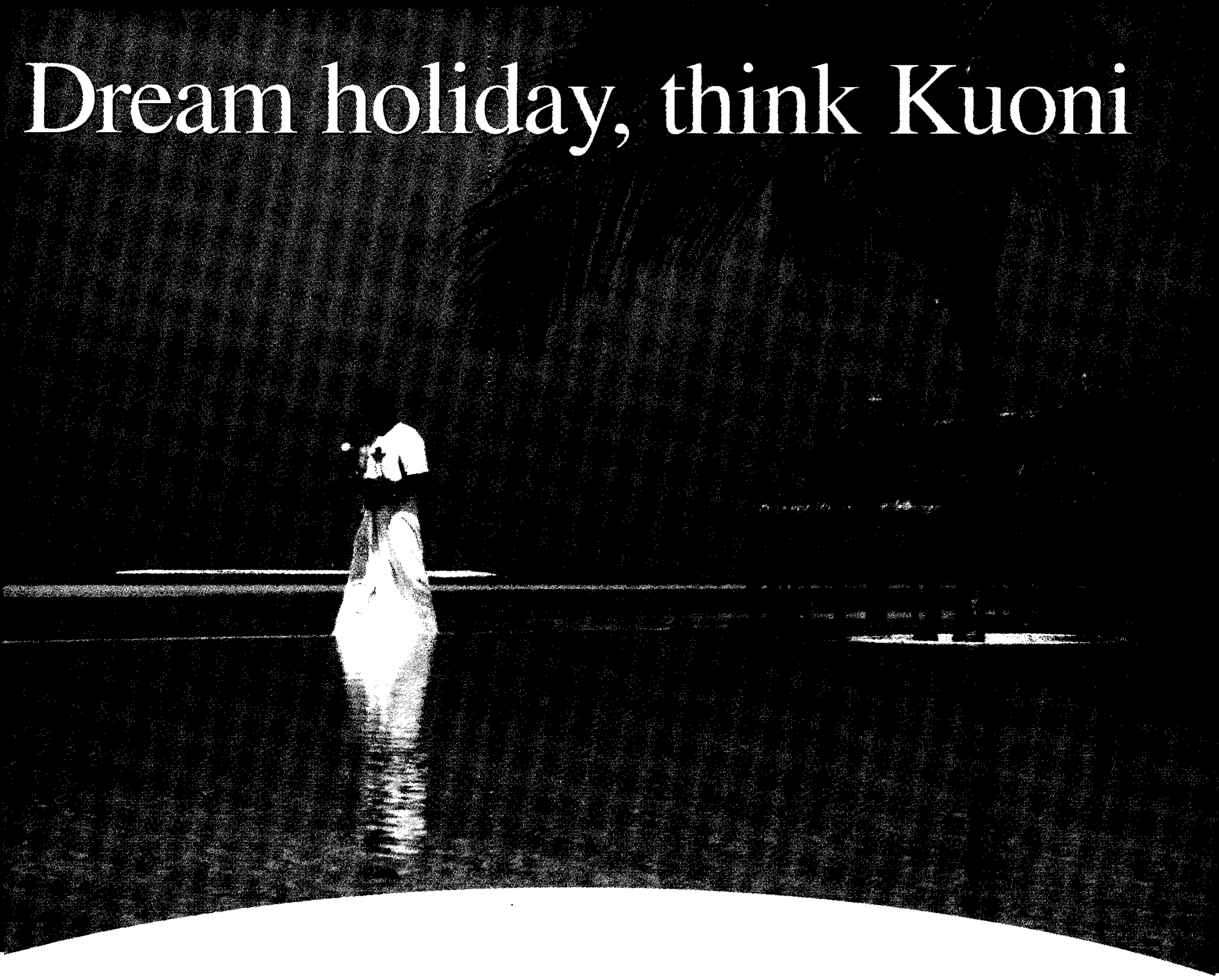
VALENTINE MESSAGES 2003

- ❤ HAIRY GUY. I love you. CHICK.
- ❤ DEBORAH, I will love you forever - DAVID
- ❤ GROANMONSTER, T'was said it wouldn't last - We do appear, to be still 'ere - So let's have the last laugh! Love Forever TUBBS.
- ❤ OI MARK. Stop hiding in the lavatory reading magazines, get downstairs and interact with your beloved wife.
- ❤ MRS WEBLEY (whose Christian name I've forgotten. OOPS! If you who know her, do us a favour, tip me the wink. It begins with an S, or so her mail says) thank you for 24 blissful years. Eternally yours, BIG GEORGE.
- ❤ NOOB. Love you more than ever. Thanks for R and B2. Who needs sleep? LIBLOB
- ❤ NILLY NOLLY NAZ - Love MASTI M
- ❤ I LOVE YOU Beautiful, ALWAYS. Bob
- ❤ AYAM CINTA Enggang - Enggang cinta Ayam?
- ❤ JIM - Its been a hard 18 months but we are all getting better now. I am so proud of you and love you so much. LIZ
- ❤ TROLL BAG DLMMLDFLDMLF Happy Valentines Lots of Love and Big kiss from 'In a while CROCA DADDY'
- ❤ TO TINA - Two years on. No custard, one diamond! Love from SEAMUS.
- ❤ STEPHEN, County Down - I really like you.
- ❤ HEWLIGAN: bite me! Love SCARLET.
- ❤ MRS MCGURGLE. Full use of cruet? NUMBER 18.
- ❤ MR PEACOCK loves MRS RINE XXX
- ❤ WINNIT loves MINKY WOMAN - sexy glass house queen.
- ❤ GEORGIE, will Guzzle Gerard's Geneva Gargle?
- ❤ JESUS SAYS, "If you see Mary in the street invite her into your home. Otherwise how can I marry her?"
- ❤ CHRIS, get out of the mothership you toad. It's not rocket science! ANDY X
- ❤ HARD CHEESE, Portia! There's lots more lady woozles up at H.Q! - SNOWY.
- ❤ DAVID. You're my cuteness. Love DEBORAH.
- ❤ S-P - meet me at the deli? I love you too, also. MOOCH.
- ❤ CAPITAINE - thank you for all that you do for me. You're wonderful. ILY - SOUS-FIFRE.
- ❤ THERE IS A PACK of boxer dogs who wee and pooh all day. But you wouldn't have it any other way.
- ❤ DOCTOR POT, Hatty Valentines darling! Love EMMACUP xxxx
- ❤ TO BARBARA: As water melts the show / To the edge of the ice / Freezing everything. Yrs ever - SPENCER JONES X
- ❤ GRIM, I love you too. KIT X
- ❤ MISTER GREEN! Fancy bunking up on the muskeg express again? Ms SMICKERS X
- ❤ PUSSYCAT pines for PIGLET!
- ❤ AAAH ARKWRIGHT, Valentine today, partner forever. We only have Private Eye in common, so what? The world gets smaller, my belly gets bigger, our love gets stronger.. Love BOY BASTARD.
- ❤ SOPHIE - poor small boy finds wonderful wife! Hurrah!
- ❤ DO KEEPERS LOVE THEIR CAMELS? Do camels like the warm?
- ❤ TO GONZO THE GREAT – love you forever. Nuklette.

Winner of two bottles of personalised his'n'hers champagne for the best Valentine message announced next issue!



Dream holiday, think Kuoni



Bespoke holidays, created in minutes

At Kuoni we specialise in one type of holiday - yours.

With hundreds of destinations to choose from Kuoni can turn you dream holiday into reality. A state-of-the-art booking system creates individual holidays. Airlines, flight class, accommodation, length of stay, can all be personalised at the touch of a button.

Call 087007 458664 (quote FPE3B) for a brochure or visit kuoni.co.uk

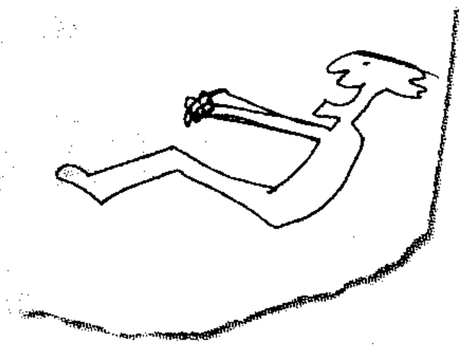
KUONI

A World of Difference

ABTA V258X

VOTED BY TRAVEL AGENTS BRITAIN'S BEST LONGHAUL TOUR OPERATOR 21 YEARS IN A ROW

There was a time when Germans feared Swedes. It's back.



The First Sketch of the all new Saab 9-3 Sport Saloon.

The Vikings gave the whole of Europe a hard time, especially their close neighbours across the Baltic. Now it's happened again with the launch of the new Saab 9-3 Sport Saloon. With a revolutionary new chassis and refined turbocharged engine, it gives both breathtaking performance and remarkable handling. In fact, it has already caused quite a stir amongst the motoring press. It seems our German competitors have every reason to be worried. And you have every reason to book a test drive. Visit your dealer or call 0845 300 93 95. **www.saab.co.uk**

9 770032 888099 06>

The all new Saab 93 Sport Saloon.

OFFICIAL FUEL CONSUMPTION IN MPG (LITRES/100KM): URBAN 22.1 (12.8), EXTRA URBAN 41.5MPG (6.8), COMBINED 31.4 (9.0). CO_2 EMISSIONS 218G/KM. ALL FIGURES FOR SAAB 9-3 SPORT SALOON AERO (210BHP) WITH MANUAL GEARBOX. 9-3 RANGE FROM £18,495